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THE ILLUSTRATED FANTASY MAGAZINE

**The
Sexiest Artist
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C O N T E N T S

HEAVY METAL

MAY 1992

VOL. VI, NO. 1

GALLERY: THE ART OF MICKEY MOUSE

THE FIVE SEASONS: AUTUMN

by Kordey and Django

MODERN WORLD

by Peter Kuper

THE EIGHTH DAY

by Daniel Torres

SHRINKING ASSETS

by Bruce Jones

MR. NICKELODEON

by Rick Geary

PERSONA

by Crepax

MARIUS DARK: PURITY

by Pascal Ferry

COVER

by Delaerz



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We have gotten a lot of flack about censorship in the Knoul Fleetfoot story (January 1992). Those little black bars covering up "casual indiscretions" were part of the story and not our way of screwing around with the first amendment.

—JSL

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G · A · L · L · E · R · Y

THE ART OF MICKEY MOUSE

EDITED BY CRAIG YOE AND JANET MORRA-YOE



JOHN BERG • Echoes • Acrylic

Published by Hyperion. Copyright © 1991 The Walt Disney Company. John Updike quote from the book's introduction © John Updike.



John Marros • Mickey Descending a Staircase • Ink



Hajime Sorayama • Untitled • Acrylic on board



J. D. Kinc • The House of Mouse • Ink and color film



JANET WOOLLEY • Mickey Mouse Fancy Dress • Collage and acrylic

“**L**ike Yin and Yang, like the Christian cross and the star of Israel, Mickey can be seen everywhere a sign, a rune, a hieroglyphic trace of a secret power, an electricity we want to plug into. Like totem poles, like African masks, Mickey stands at that intersection of abstraction and representation where magic connects.”

John Updike

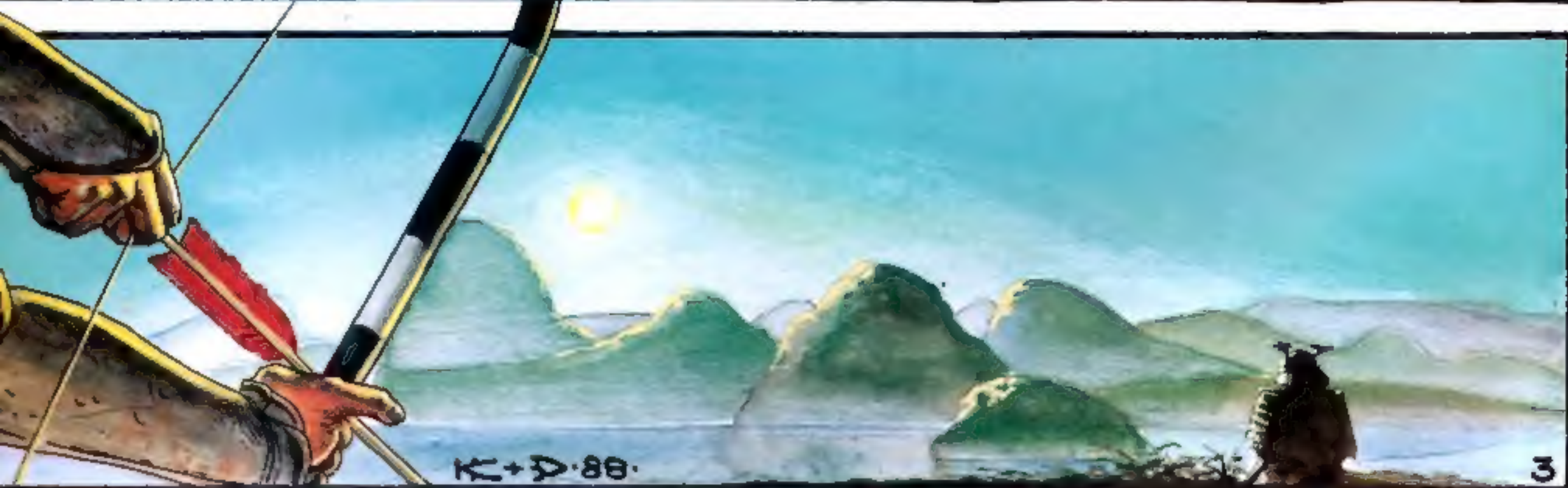


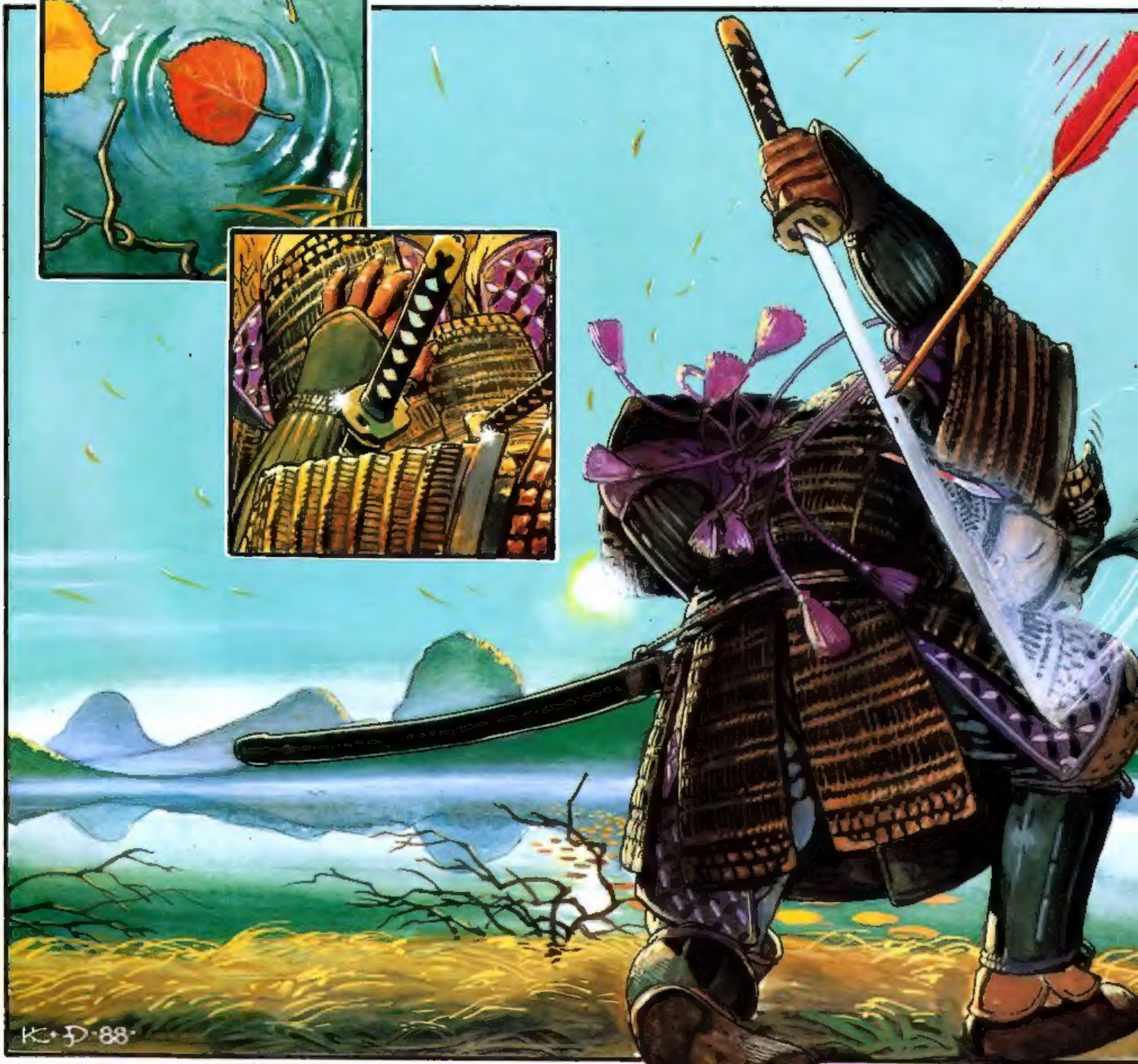
the five seasons--
AUTUMN



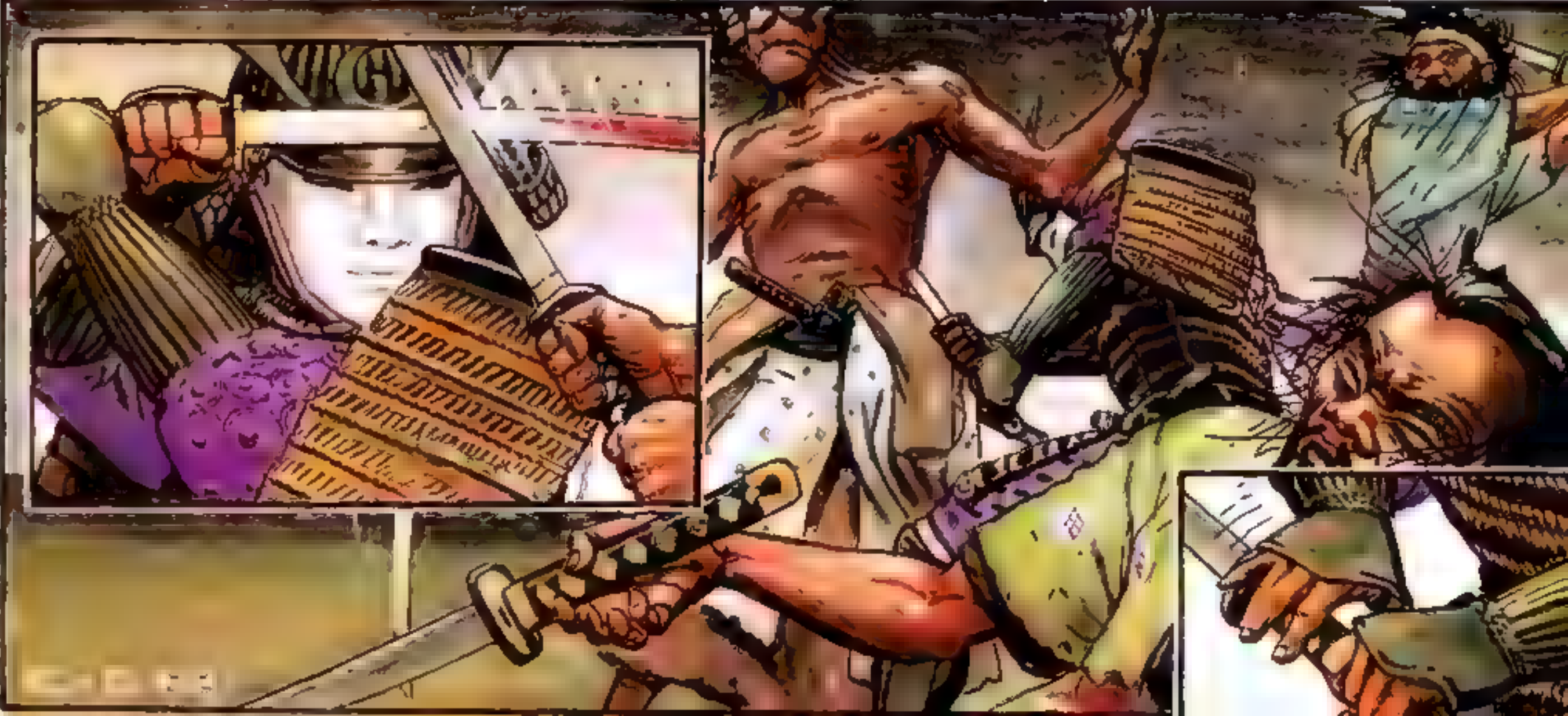
K+J-88.

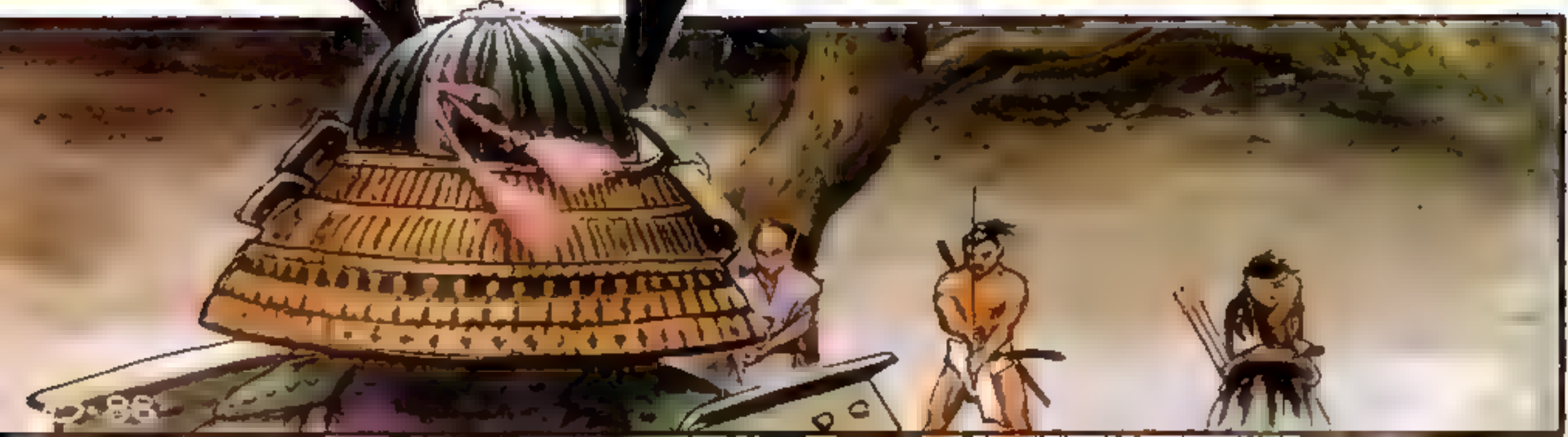
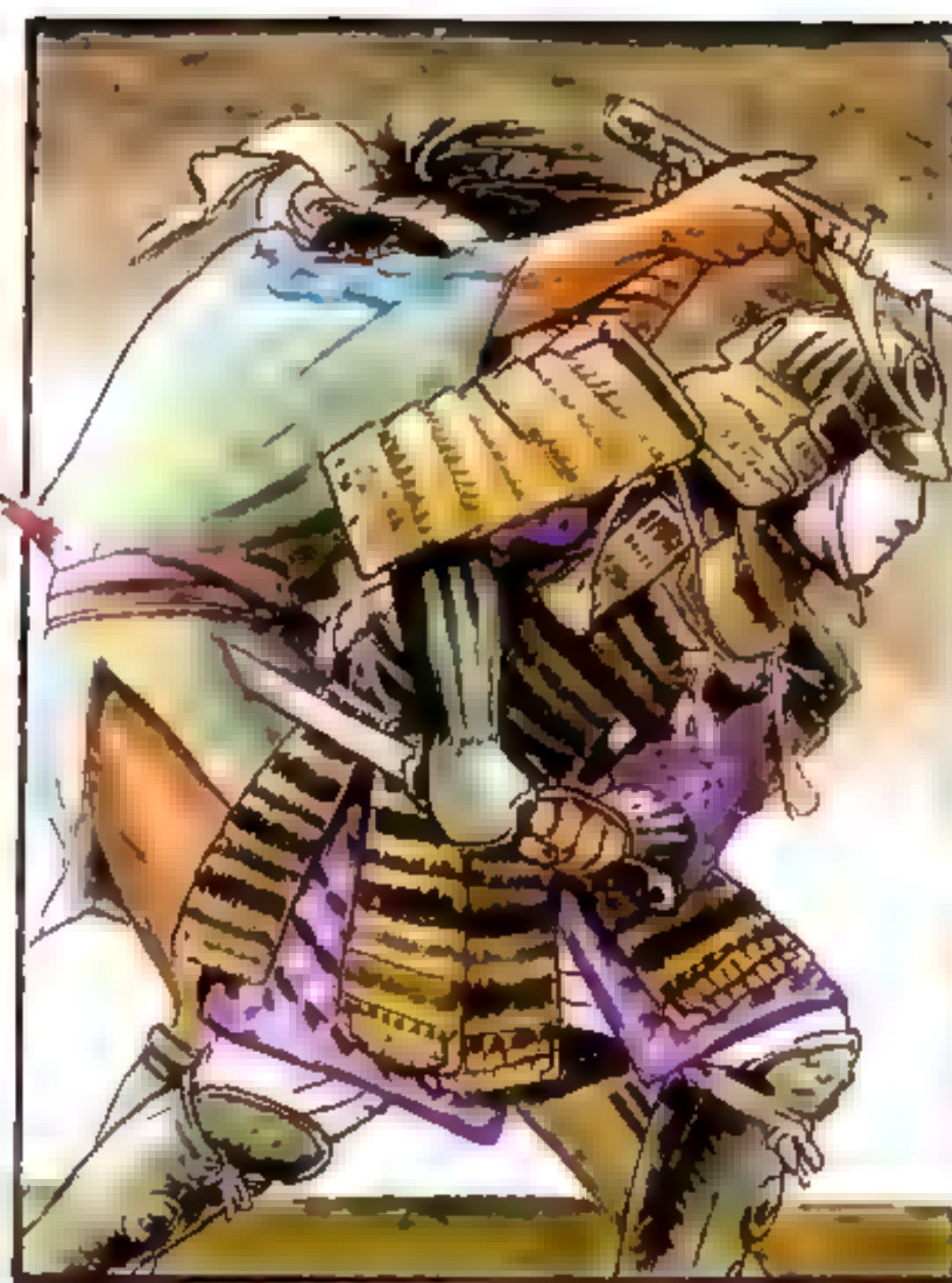


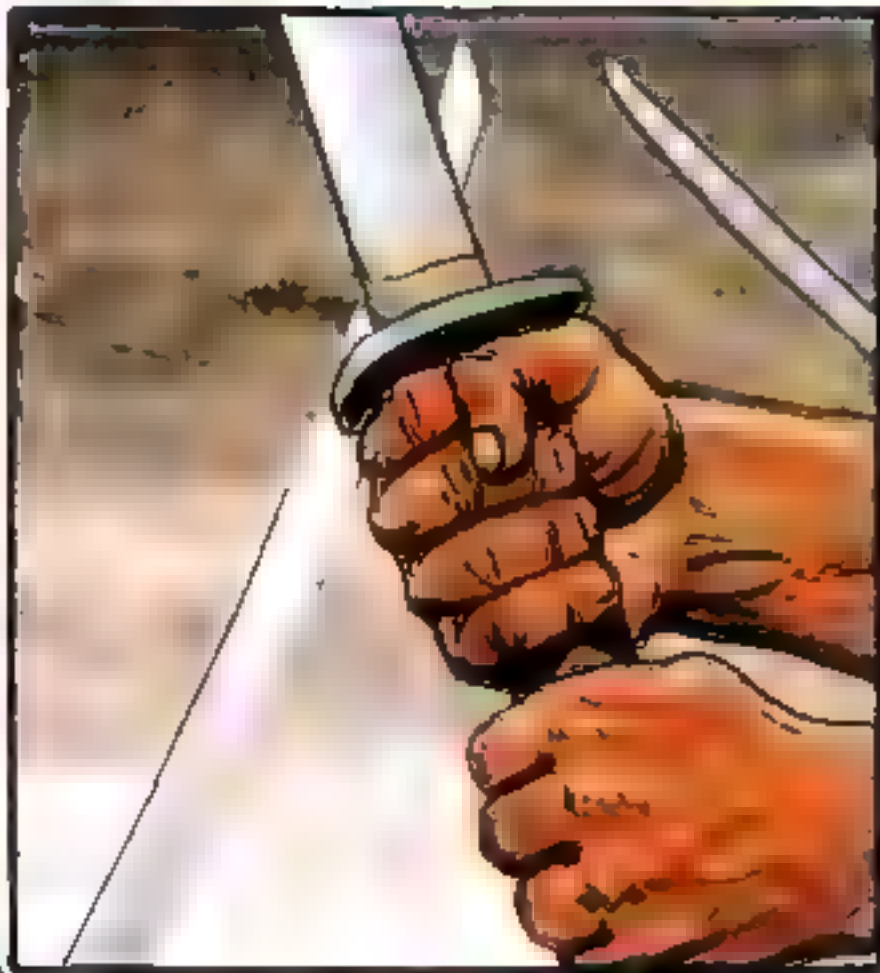


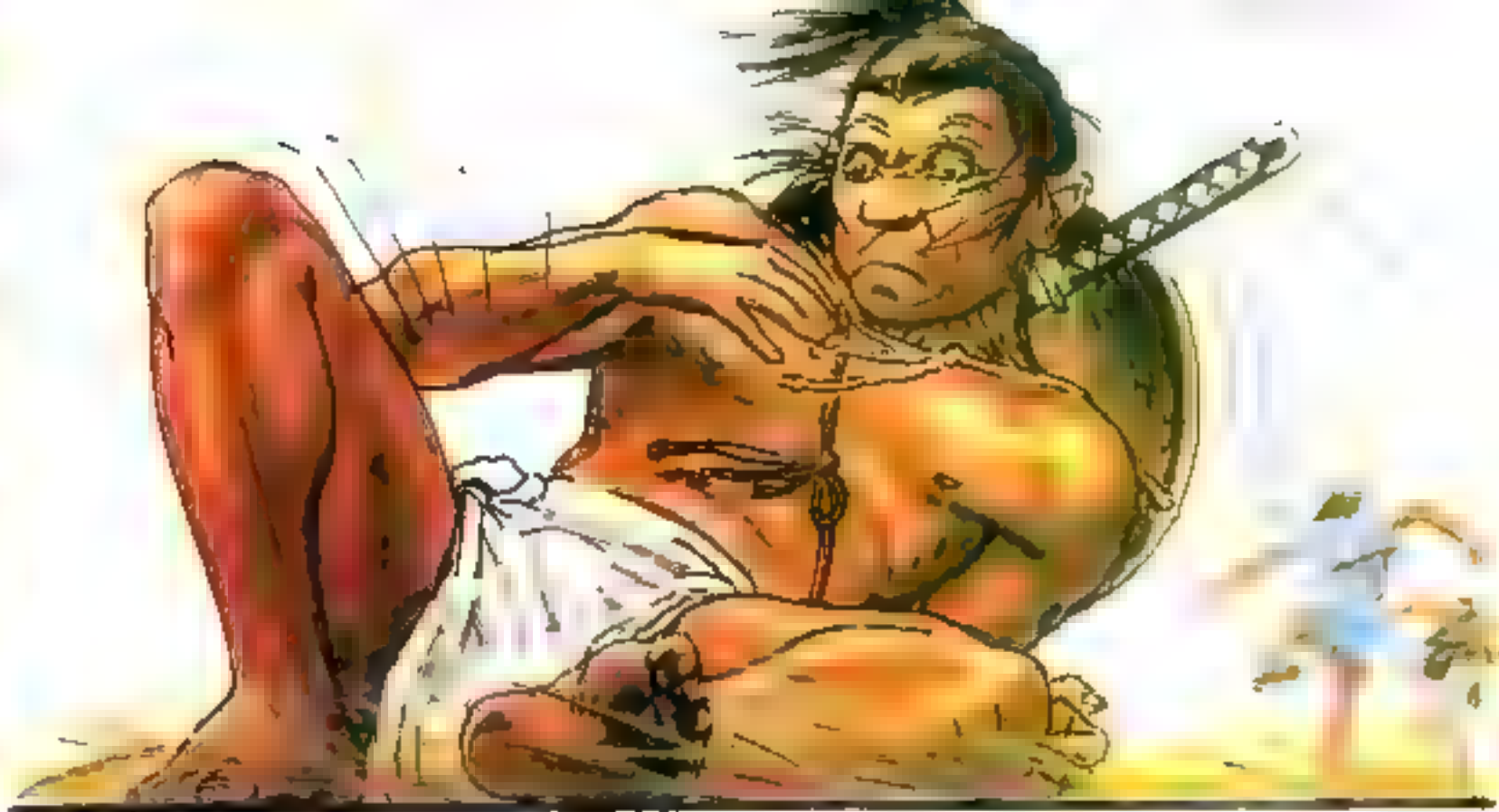


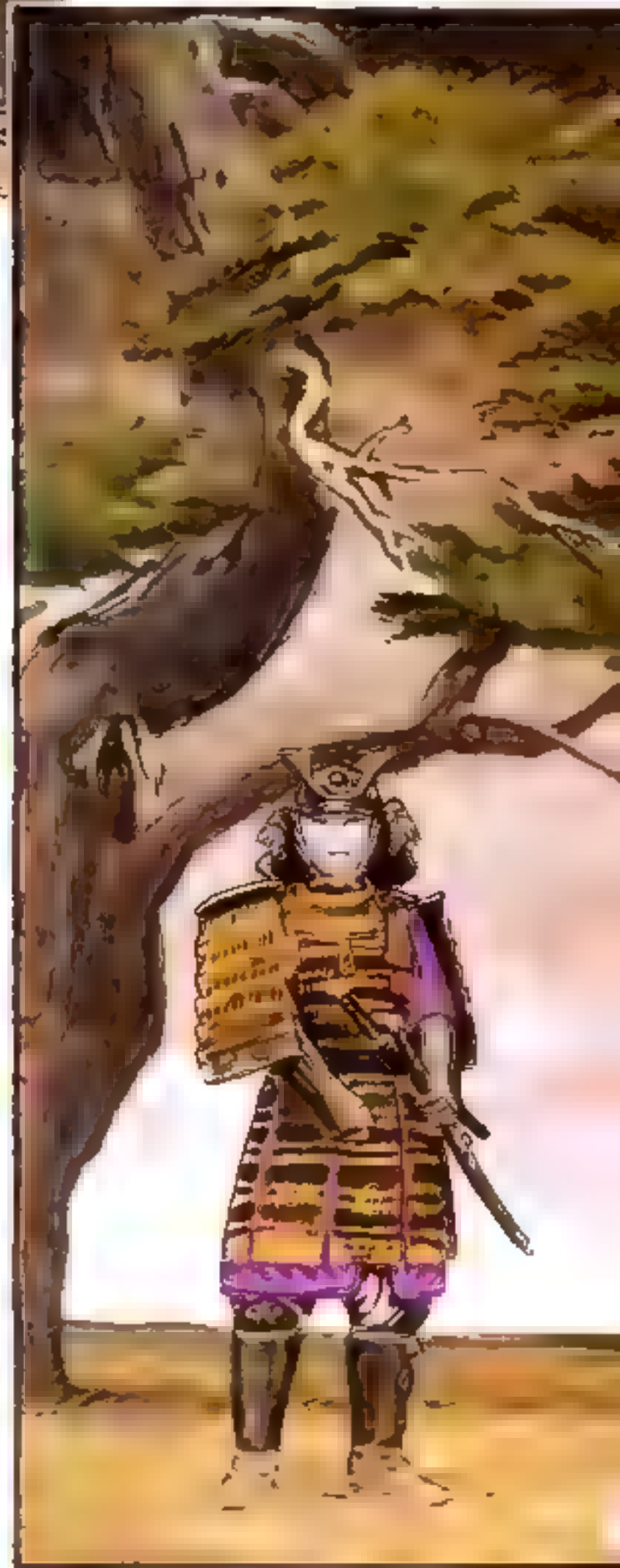
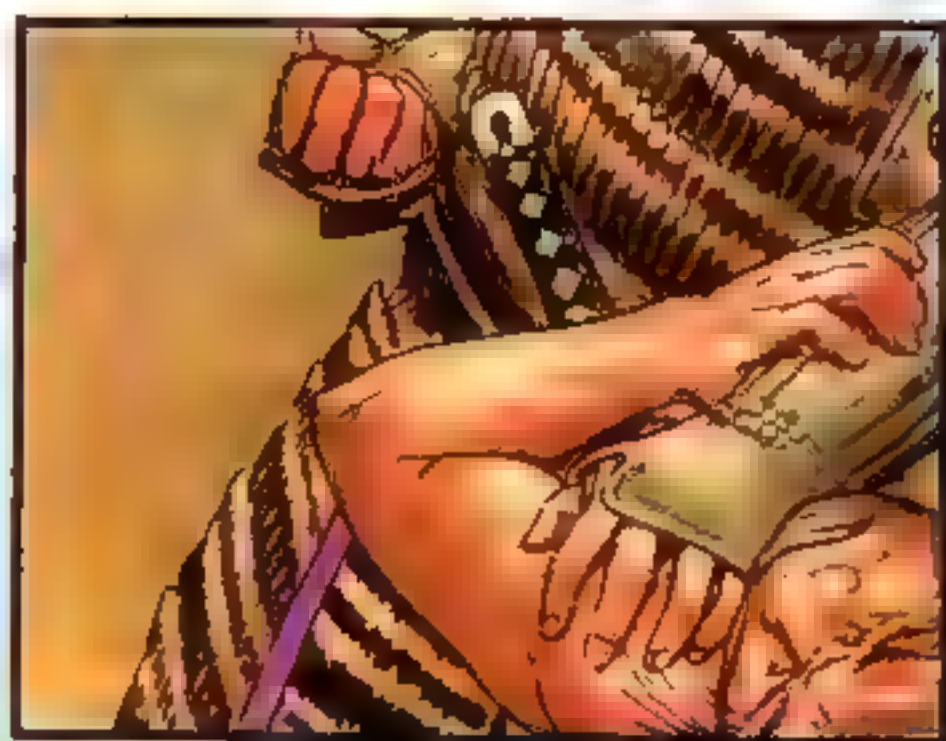




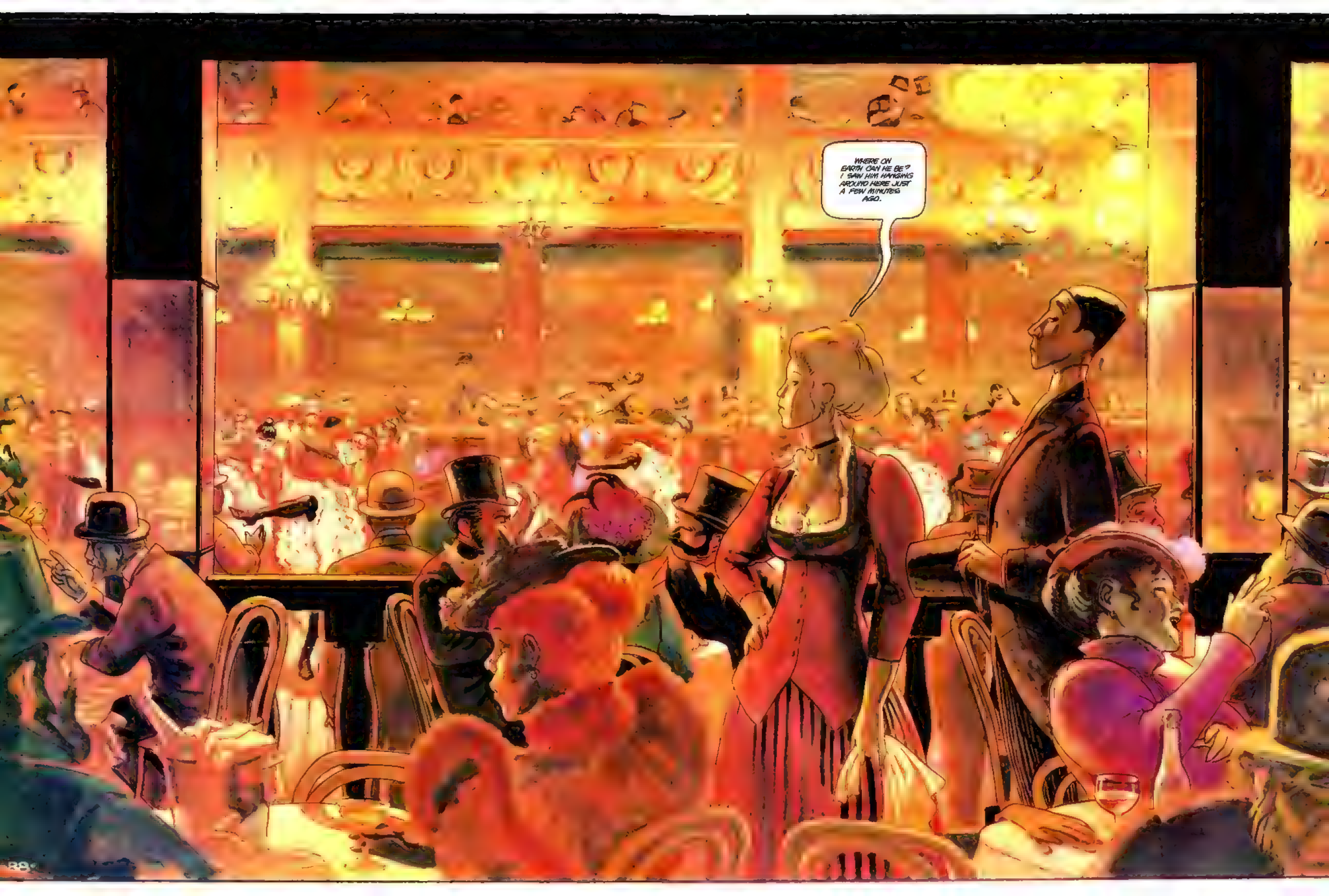




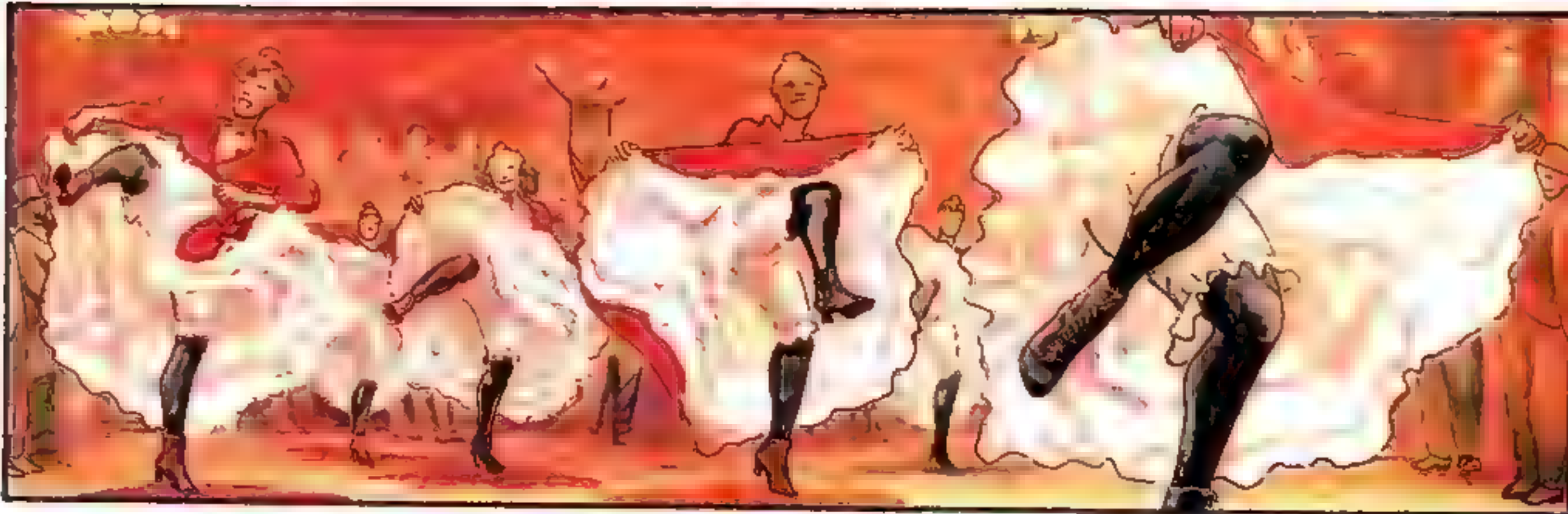








WHERE ON
EARTH CAN HE BE?
I SAW HIM HANGING
AROUND HERE JUST
A FEW MINUTES
AGO.





SO THAT'S HIS NEW HIDING PLACE! HENRY, COME OUT OF THERE! THERE'S A GUY HERE WHO WANTS TO TALK TO YOU!



HE DRAWS SO BEAUTIFULLY THE DANCERS LOOK SO REAL. HENRY, MY DEAR, YOU PROMISED YOU WOULDN'T DRINK SO MUCH.



MR LAUTREC.

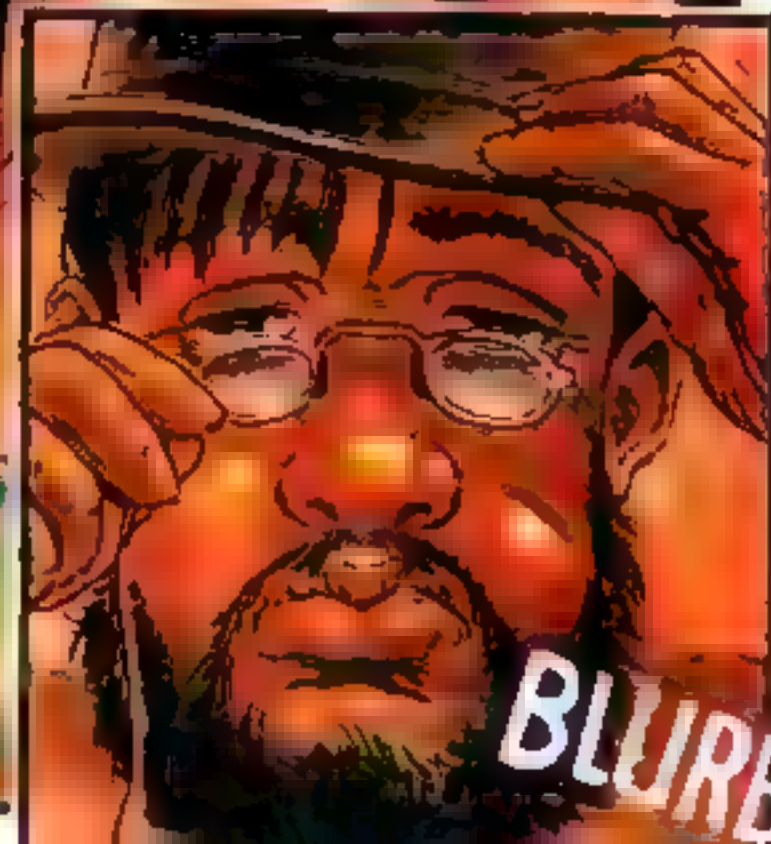
I CAN'T BELIEVE THE STATE HE'S IN.



MR TOULOUSE-LAUTREC!



MR HENRY MARIA RAYMOND DE TOULOUSE-LAUTREC MONFA!



BLURBI!



COME HERE, HENRY SIEDLER WANTS TO SHARE HIS BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE WITH YOU

EXCUSE ME, SIR A GENTLEMEN WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK TO YOU

MR "CHAMPAGNE"



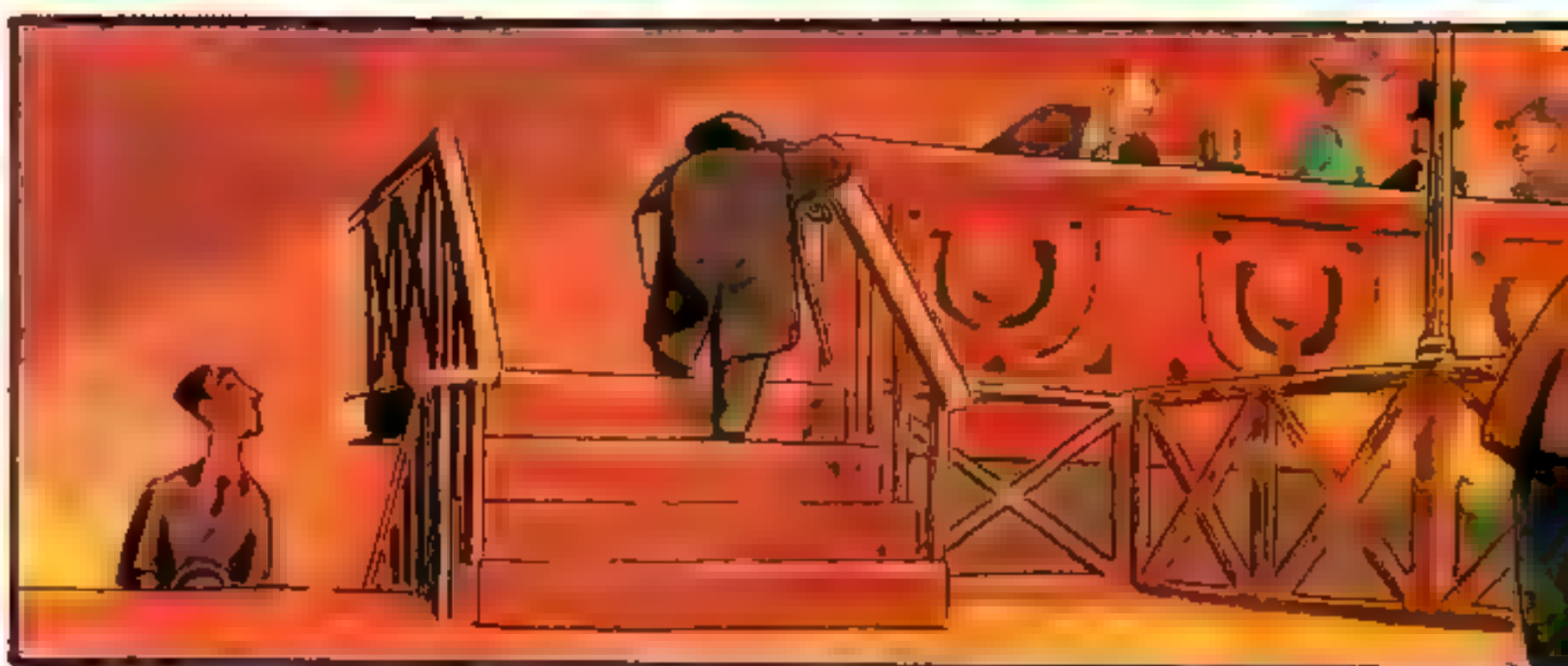
BUT MR TOULOUSE-LAUTREC IT'S VERY

MR HENRY MARIE RAYMOND DE TOULOUSE LAUTREC (NOIR)



MADIE HENRY RAYMOND DE TOULOUSE LAUTREC. MADIE HENRY THERE IS A VERY IMPORTANT GENTLEMAN HERE TO SEE YOU WHO

LET'S SEE IF I EVER GET TO THE TOP OF THIS MOUNTAIN... WHAT WHAT SHALL I CALL IT.



HENRY, MY FRIEND! LET ME CONGRATULATE YOU! WHAT A WONDERFUL POSTER YOU DREW FOR ME! THIS IS A RED-LETTER DAY!



THERE ISN'T ONE SEAT LEFT IN THE MOULIN ROUGE! THIS IS REAL ART!



MR LAITRED, ALTHOUGH I'VE SPENT MY LIFE WORKING IN THE STEEL INDUSTRY, I LOVE ART I HAVE SEEN MOST OF YOUR WORK IN BROTHELS. YOU MAY CALL ME CONSERVATIVE, IF YOU WISH, BUT I BELIEVE THAT ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENTS OF THE ARTISTIC PROCESS IS THE SUBJECT, AND IT MUST BE A GOOD ONE.



MISTER .

DACHATEAU

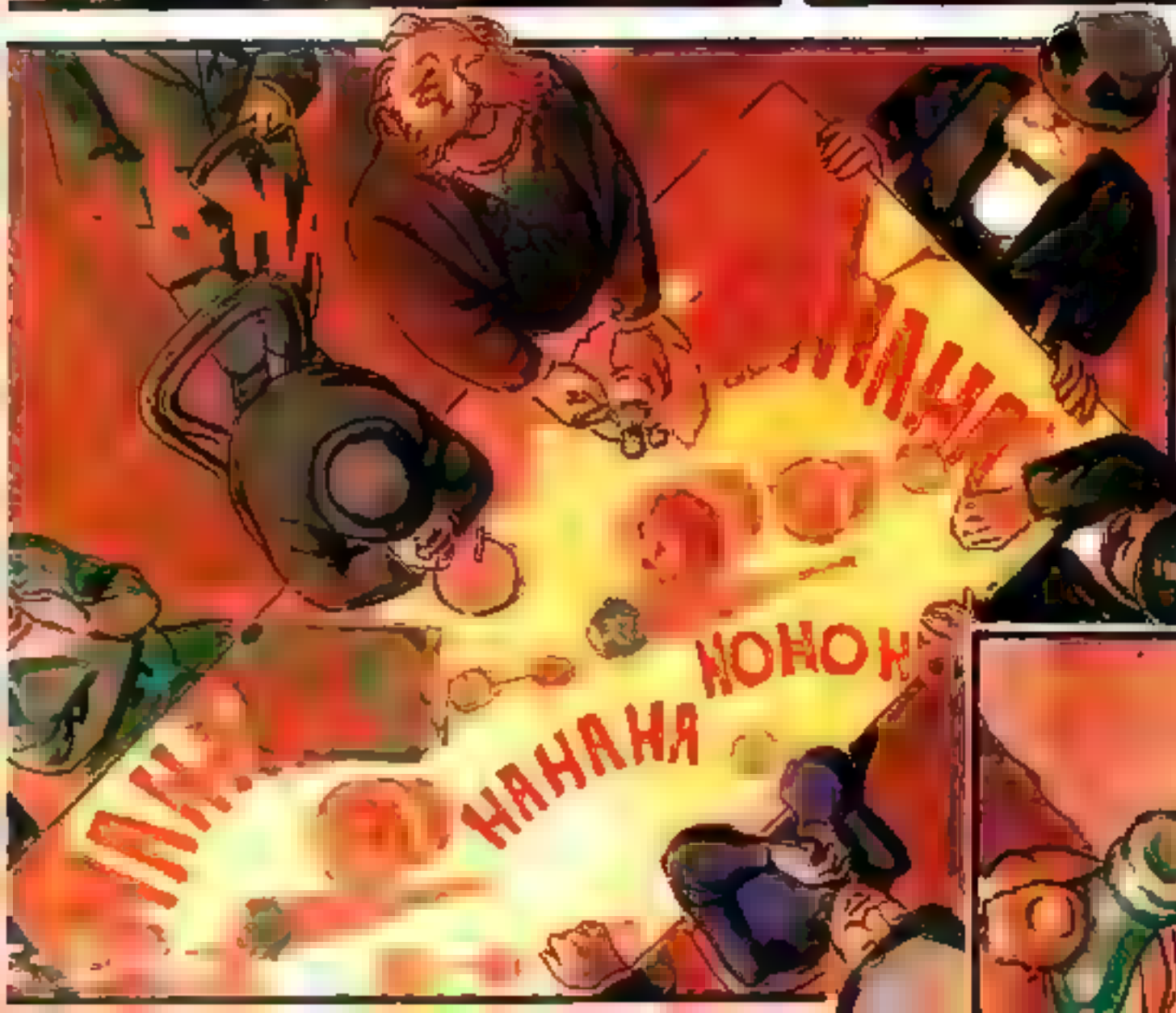
MR DACHATEAU, IN 1499 WHEN THE DUCHY OF MILAN WAS STILL UNDER FRENCH RULE, LEONARDO DA VINCI WAS FORCED TO TRAVEL DOWN TO FLORENCE, STOPPING IN MANTUA AND VENICE ALONG THE WAY. REMEMBER THIS: MANTUA, VENICE AND THEN FLORENCE.



IN MAY 1503, OR RATHER ON MAY 13, 1503, TO BE EXACT, HE WAS COMMISSIONED TO PAINT A FRESCO IN CITY HALL, THE "PALAZZO VECCHIO" AFTER GIVING IT MUCH THOUGHT, HE CHOSE AS A SUBJECT THE BATTLE OF ANGIARIO AND THREE DAYS BEFORE GIVING IT THE FINAL BRUSH STROKE, LEONARDO WROTE:



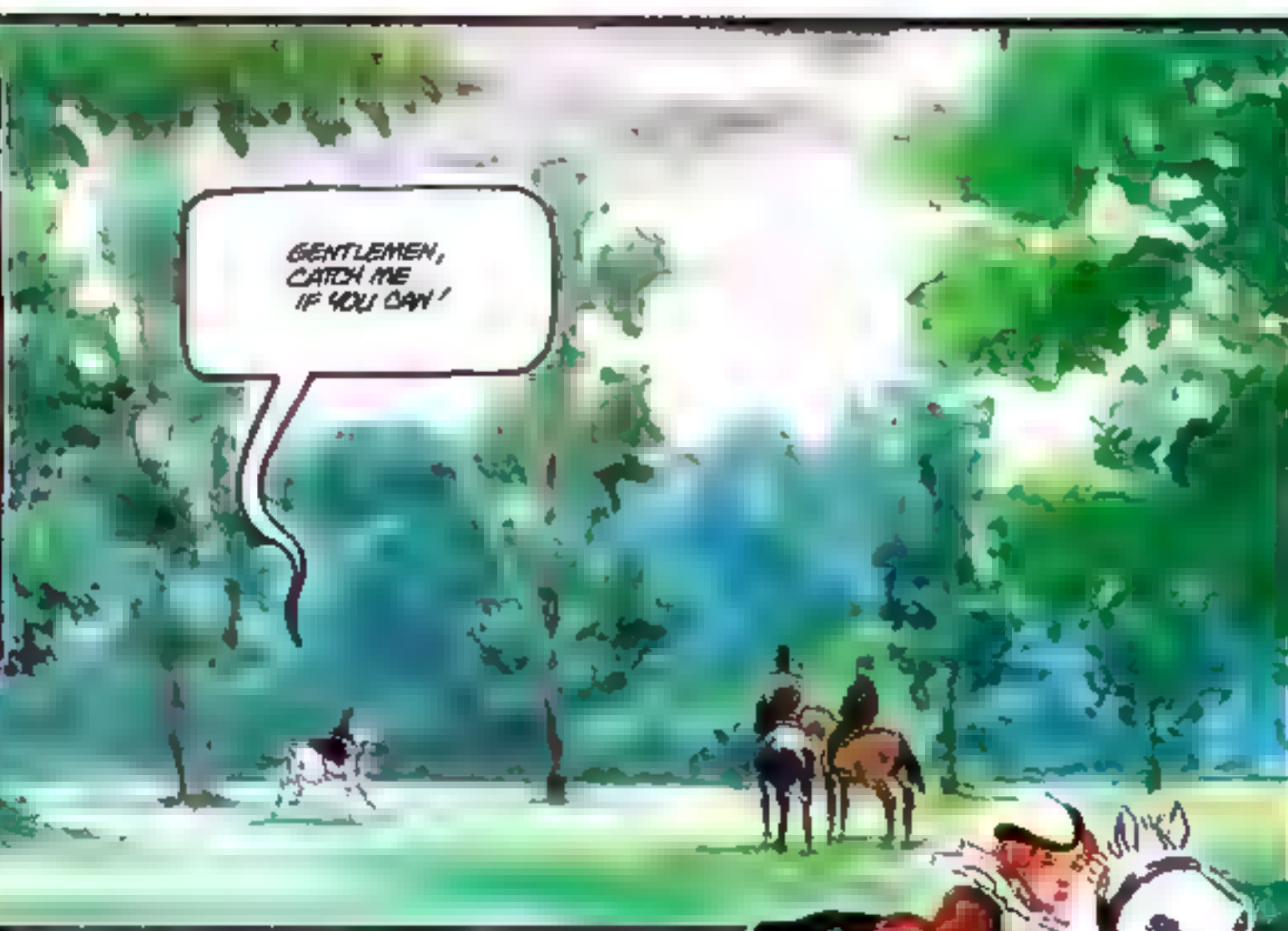
... "THE TOUGHEST JOB FOR A PAINTER IS TO DRAW A BROTHEL AND NOT SPEND A DIME DOING SO."



HENRY, HIS EXCELLENCY, YOUR FATHER, WANTS TO SEE YOU... YOUR FATHER



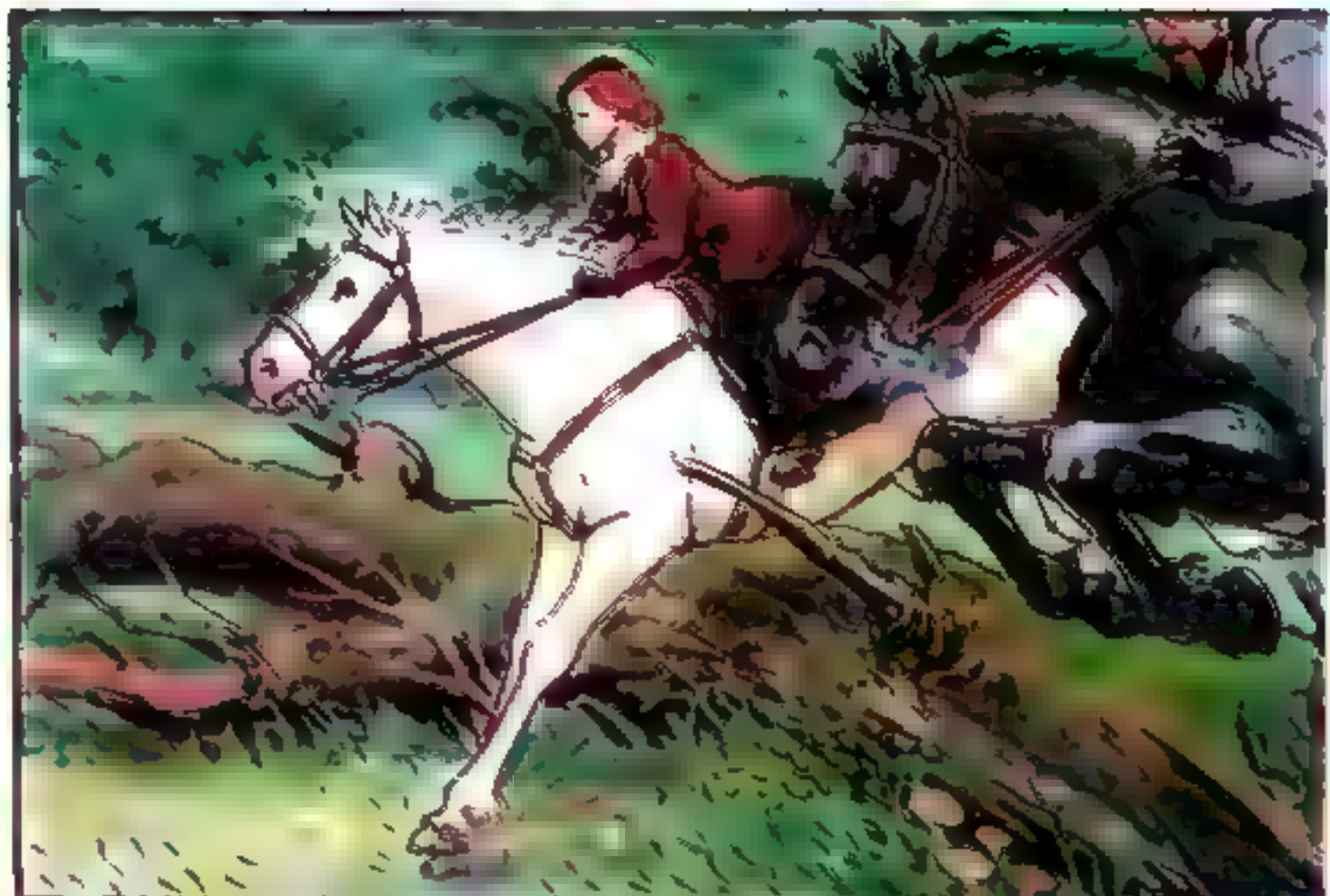
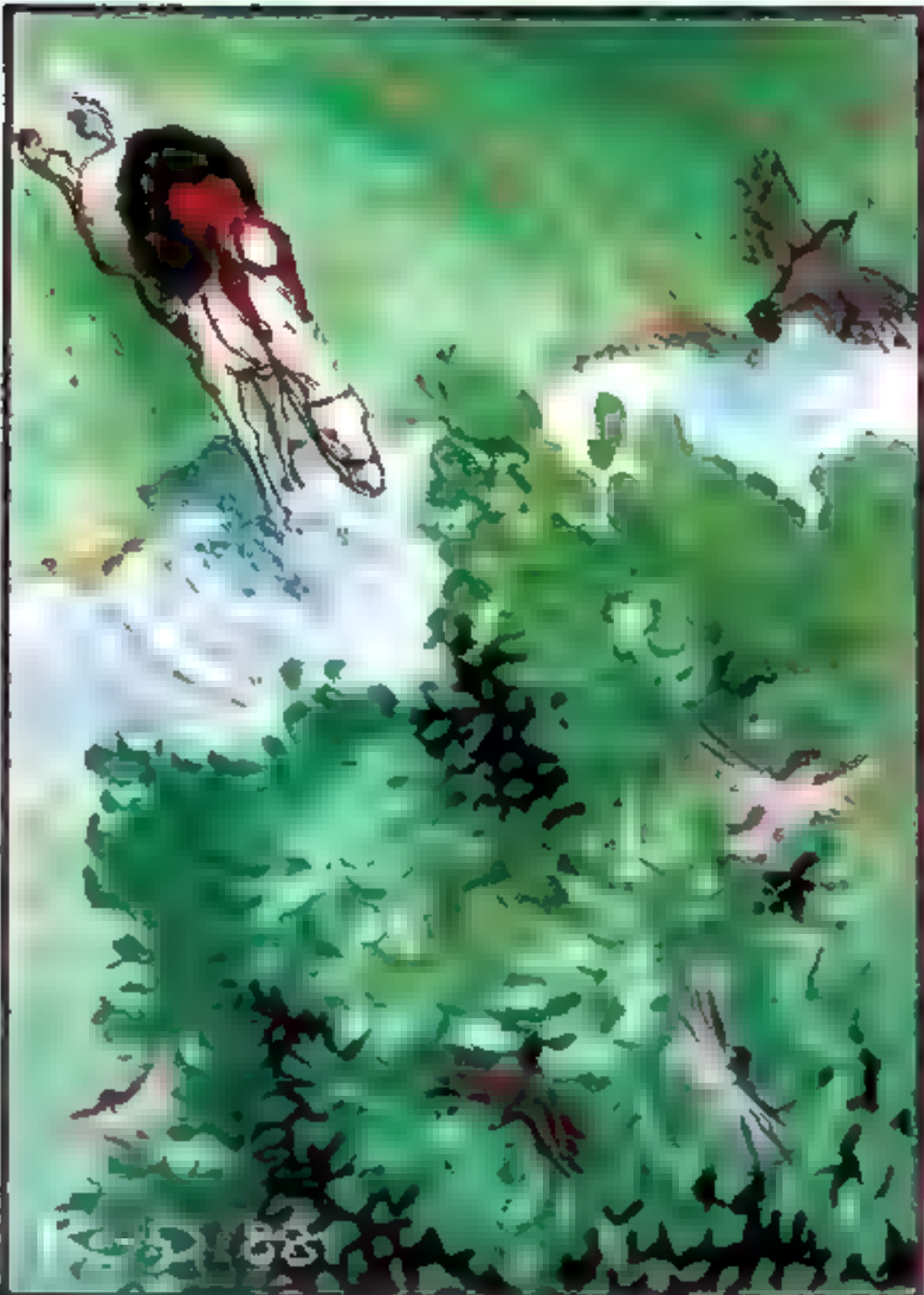
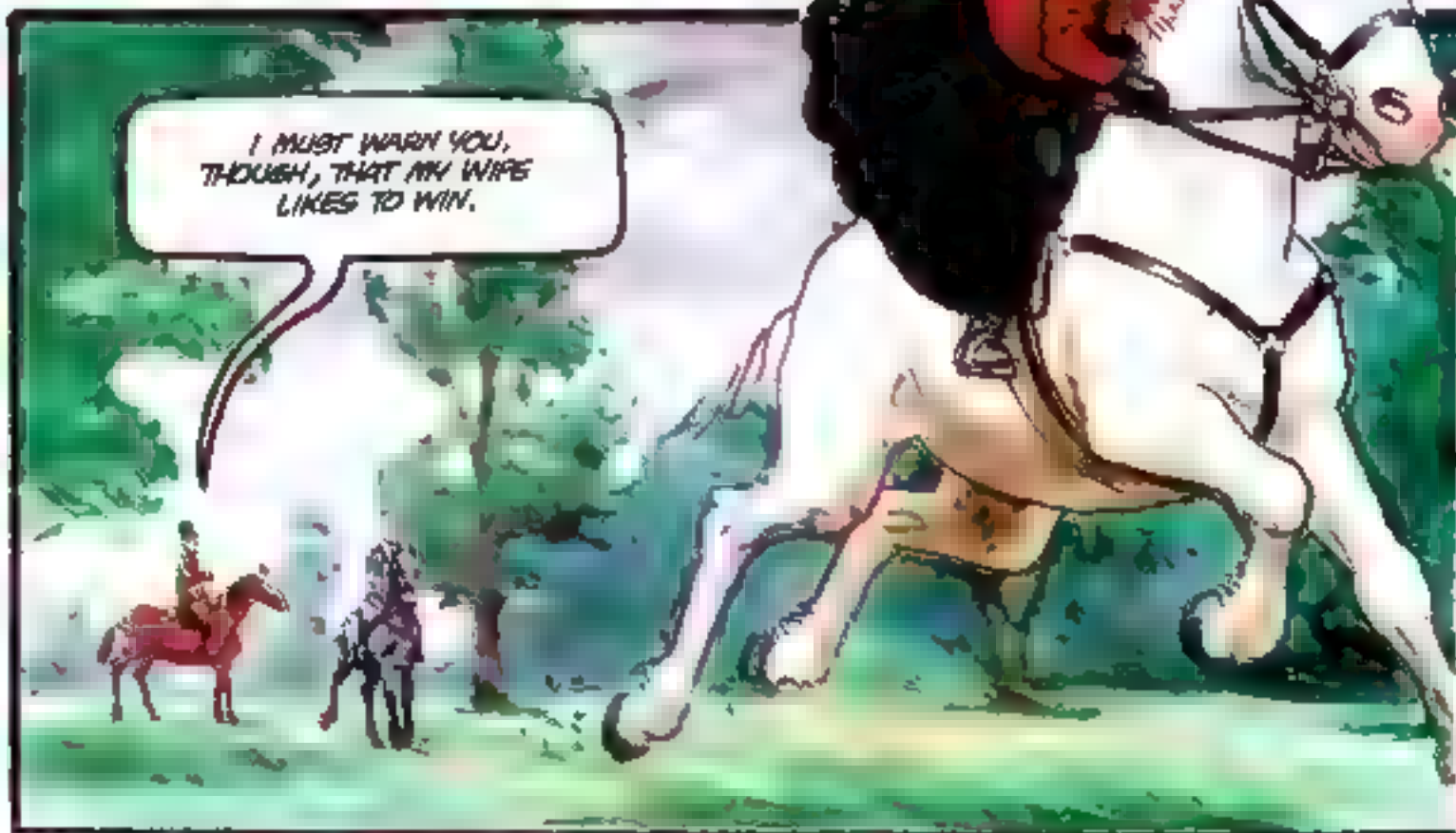
GENTLEMEN,
CATCH ME
IF YOU CAN!



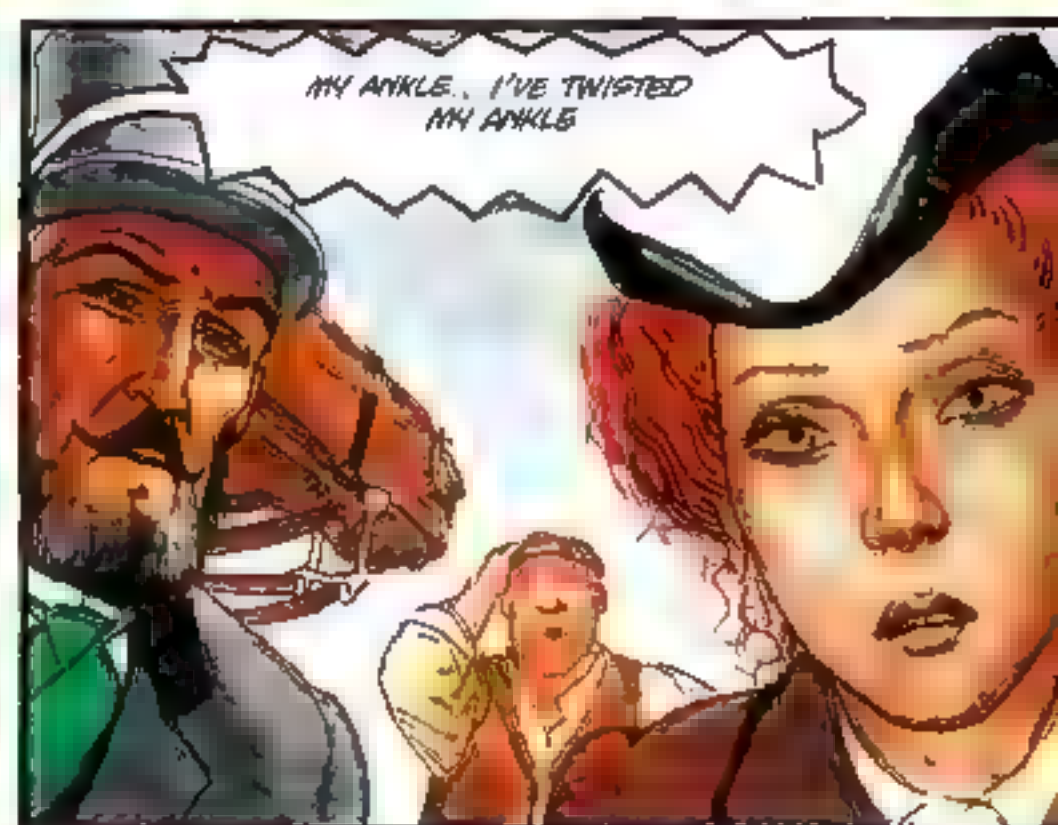
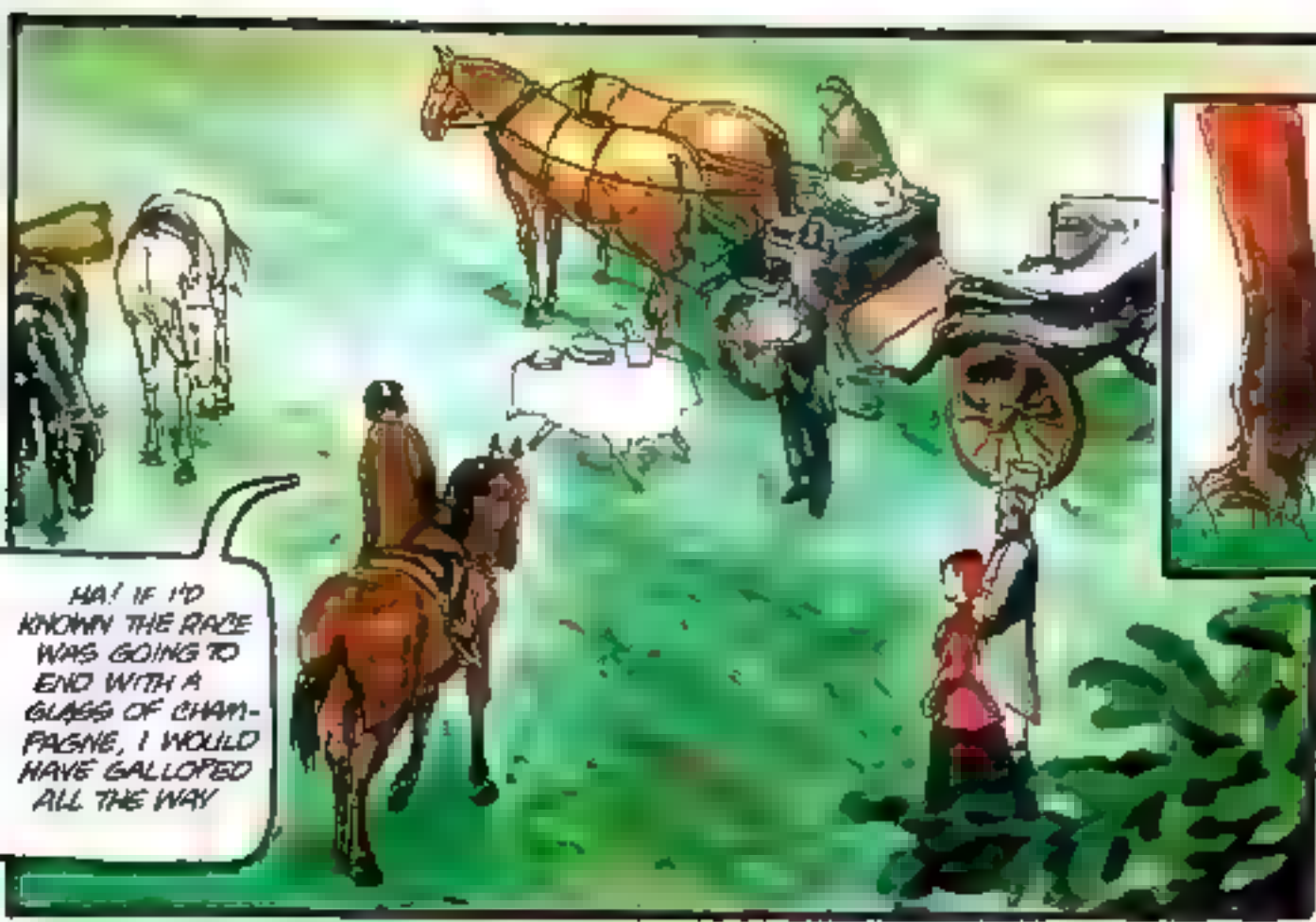
GO AHEAD,
MR. LAUTREC,
ANGELA LOVES
A GOOD RACE!
ON THE CONTRARY,
ONLY WISH TO
REACH MY
DESTINATION,
THE SPEED
DOES NOT
MATTER.



I MUST WARN YOU,
THOUGH, THAT MY WIFE
LIKES TO WIN.







HE IS IN GREAT NEED OF CHAMBERMAIDS, AND I, AS HIS BUTLER, CONSIDER IT MY DUTY TO INSPECT THEIR WORK PERSONALLY.



LOOK AT THIS. I CAN DO THIS TOO..



HERE I AM YOU HAVEN'T BEEN WAITING TOO LONG, I TRUST.. ANYWAY, YOUR MASTER MUST BE WAITING WITH GREATER IMPATIENCE THAN YOU.



GOOD EVENING, MADAME GOOD EVENING, MR. BONSEIGNEUR-ARTOUX. HOW IS YOUR ANKLE?

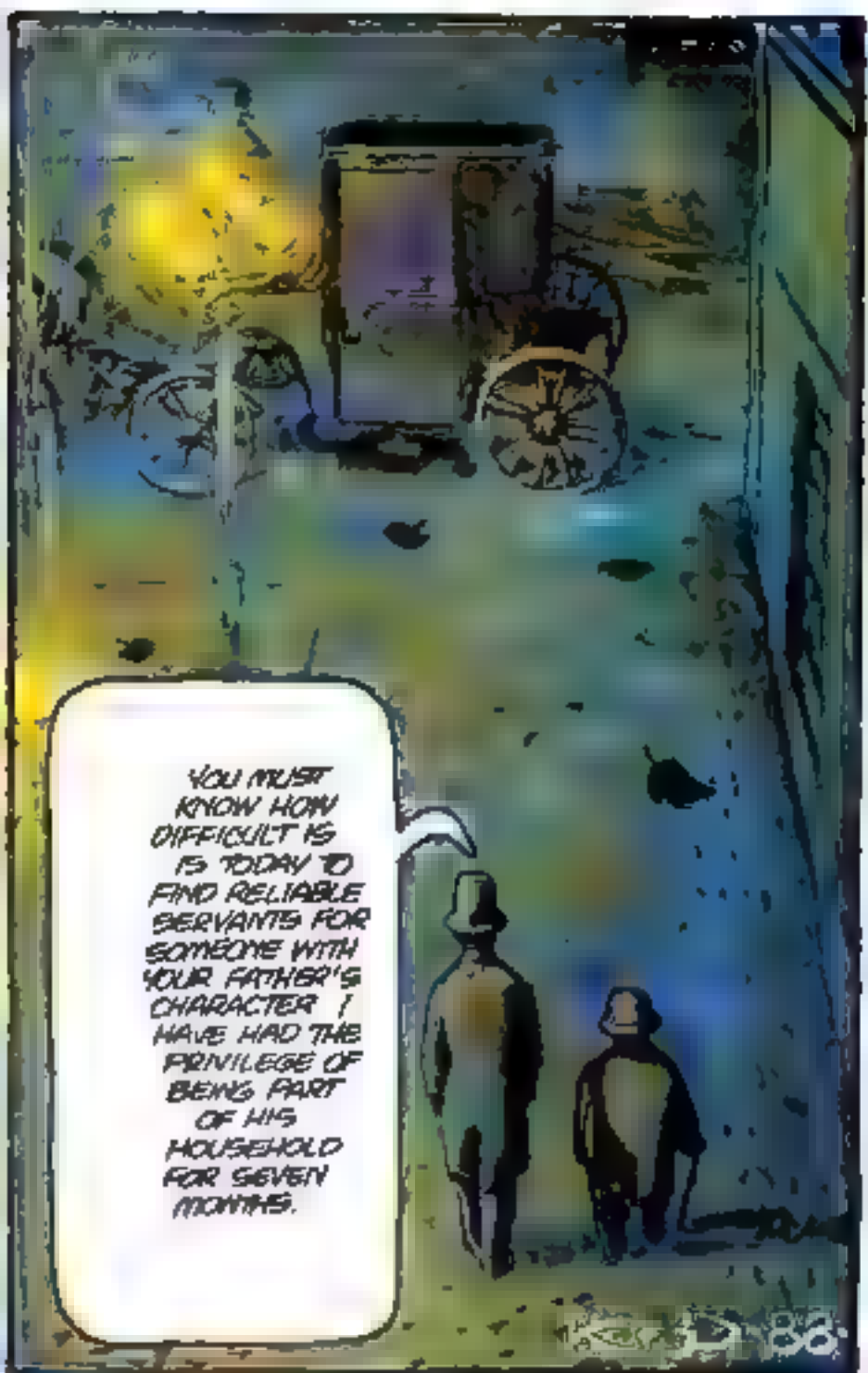
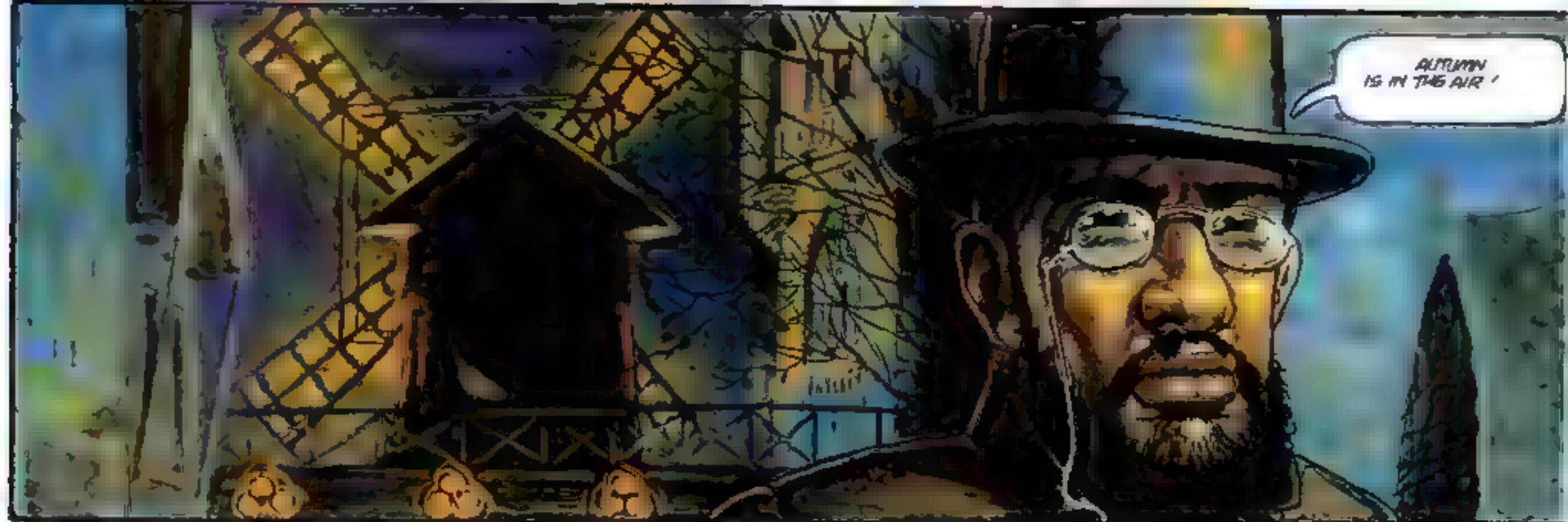


JUST FINE, THANKS, PABLO. TELL ME, IS THAT MR TOULOUSE-LAUTREC?



HE REMINDS ME SO MUCH OF HIS FATHER, DON'T YOU THINK SO, MY DEAR?







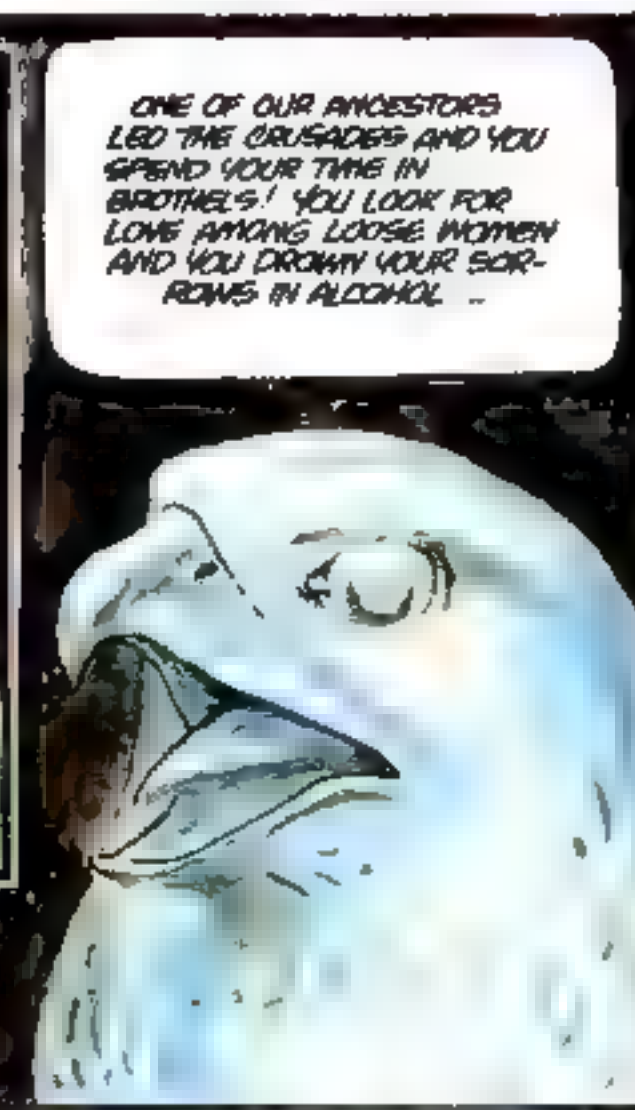
HIS EXCELLENCY THE FATHER
AND HIS SON.



HAVE YOU
FORGOTTEN
WHOSE
NAME YOU
CARRY?



THE NAME WITH
WHICH YOU SIGN YOUR
HORRIBLE SCRIBBLES.



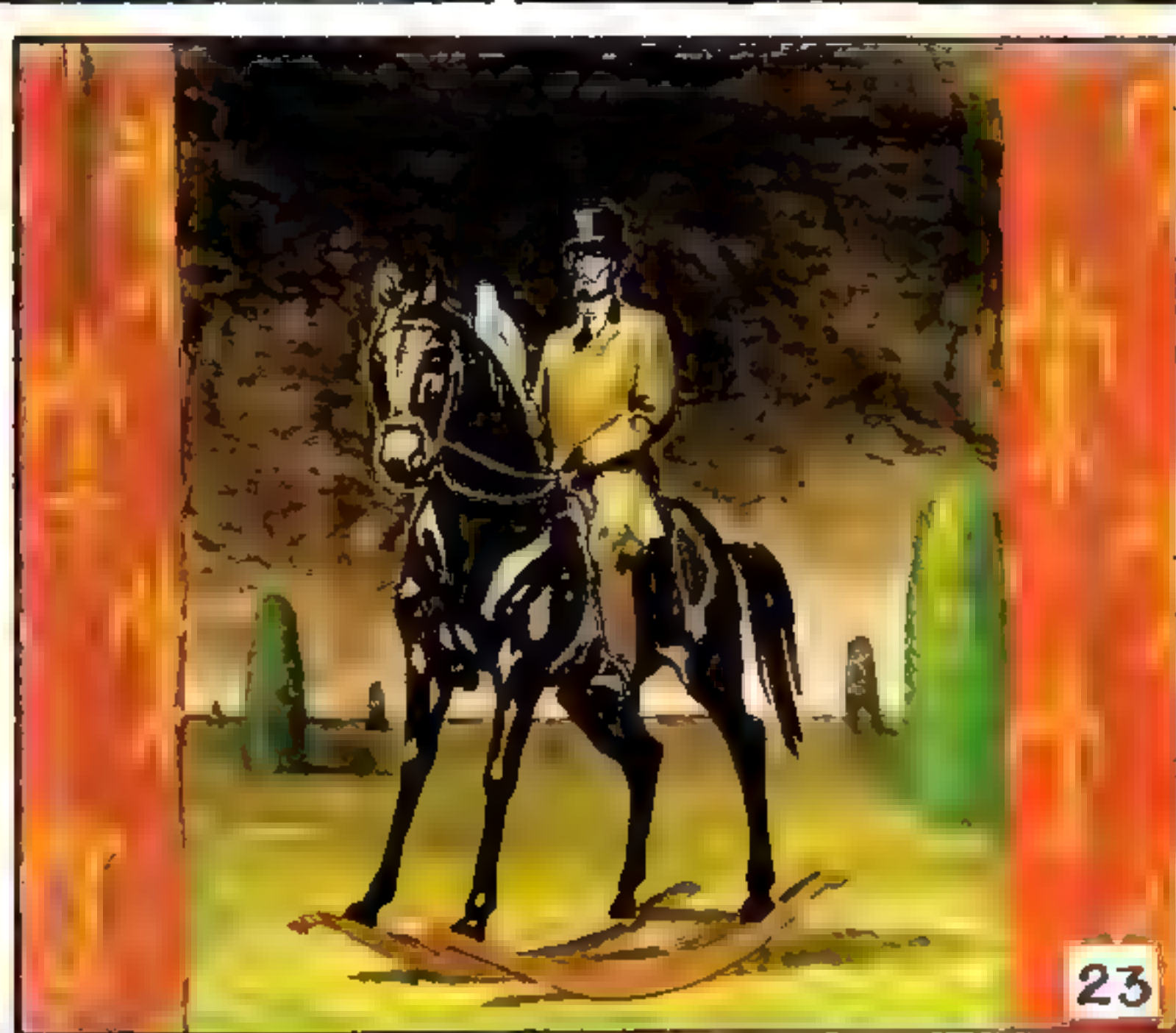
ONE OF OUR ANCESTORS
LED THE CRUSADES AND YOU
SPEND YOUR TIME IN
BROTHERS! YOU LOOK FOR
LOVE AMONG LOOSE WOMEN
AND YOU DROWN YOUR SOR-
ROWS IN ALCOHOL -

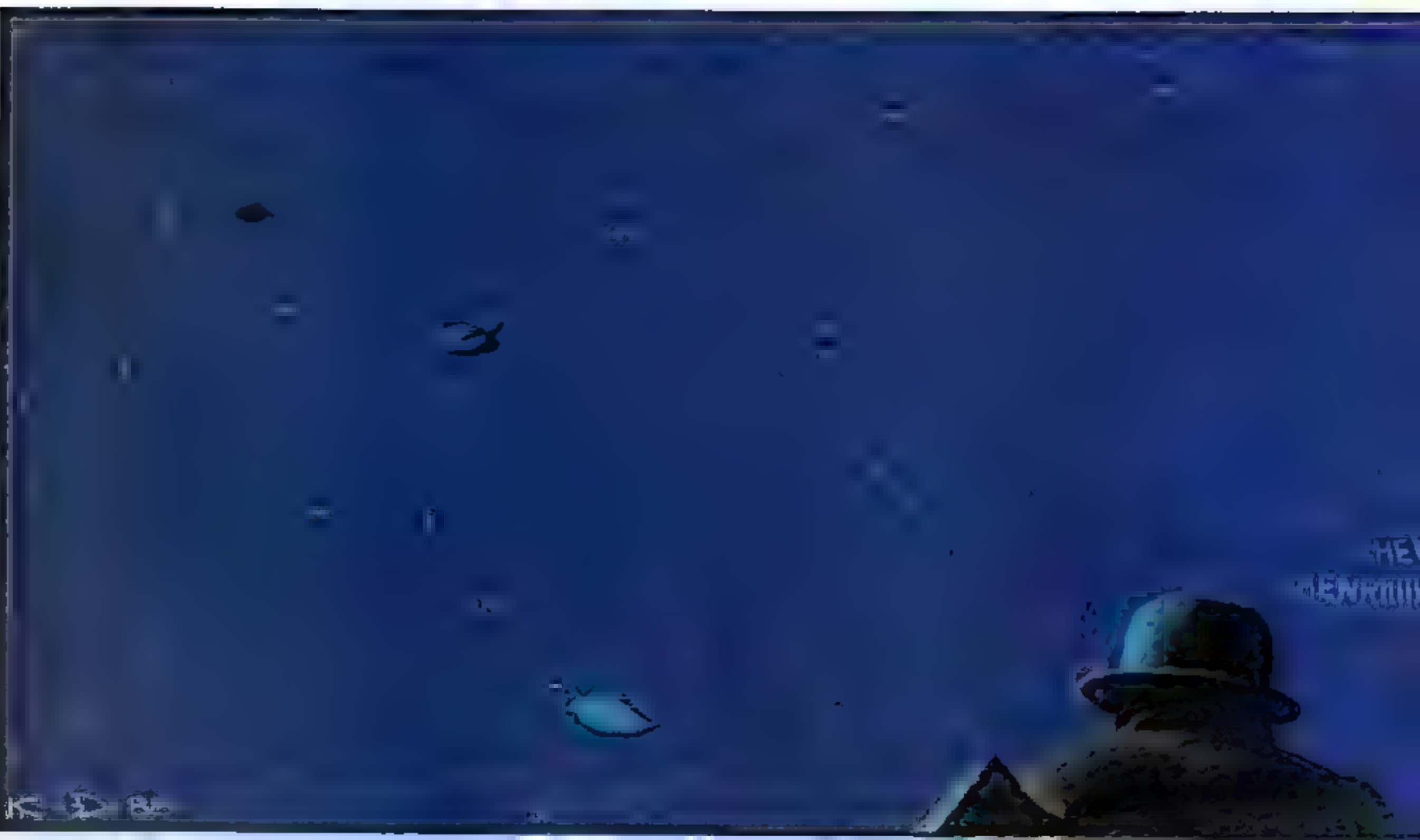
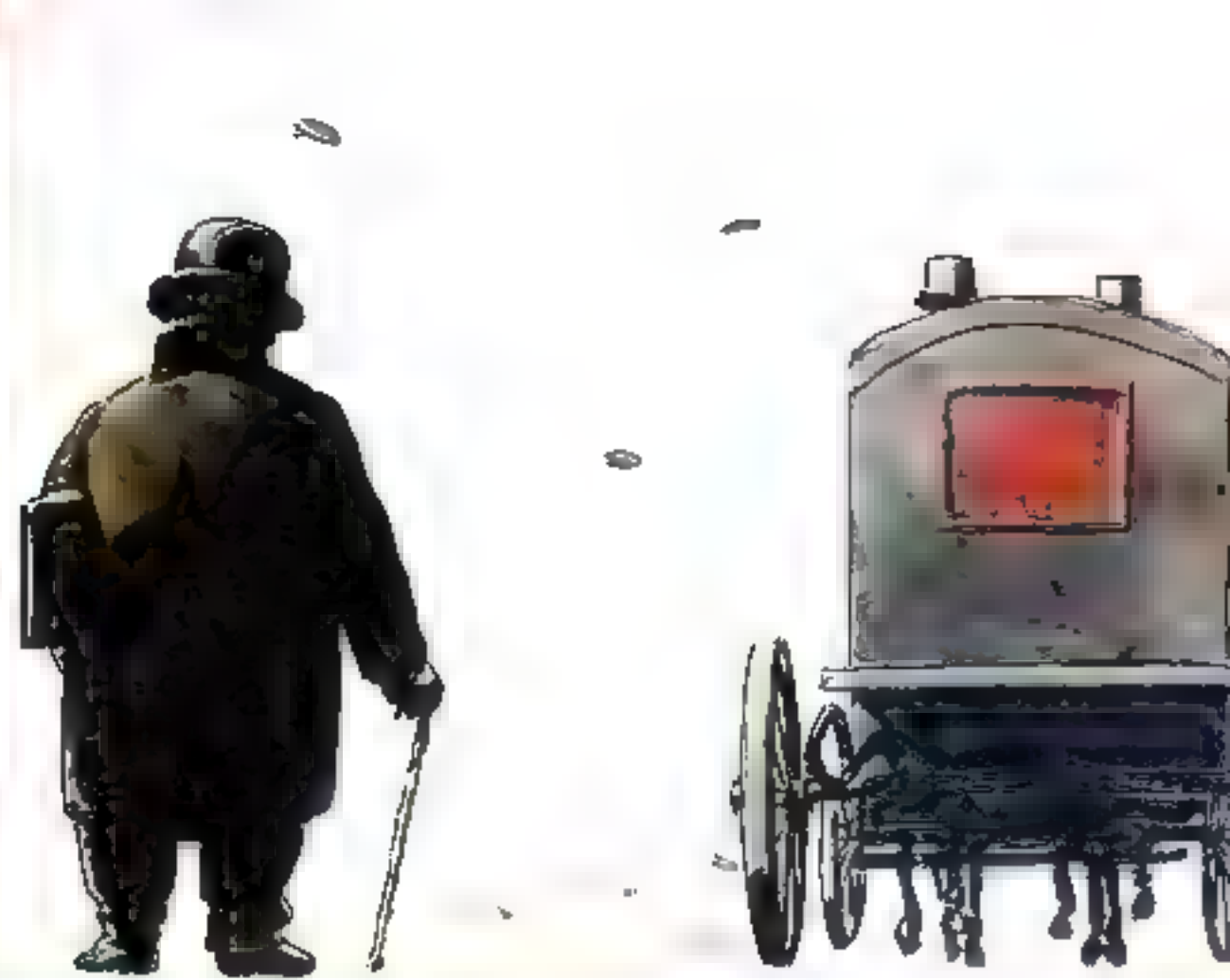


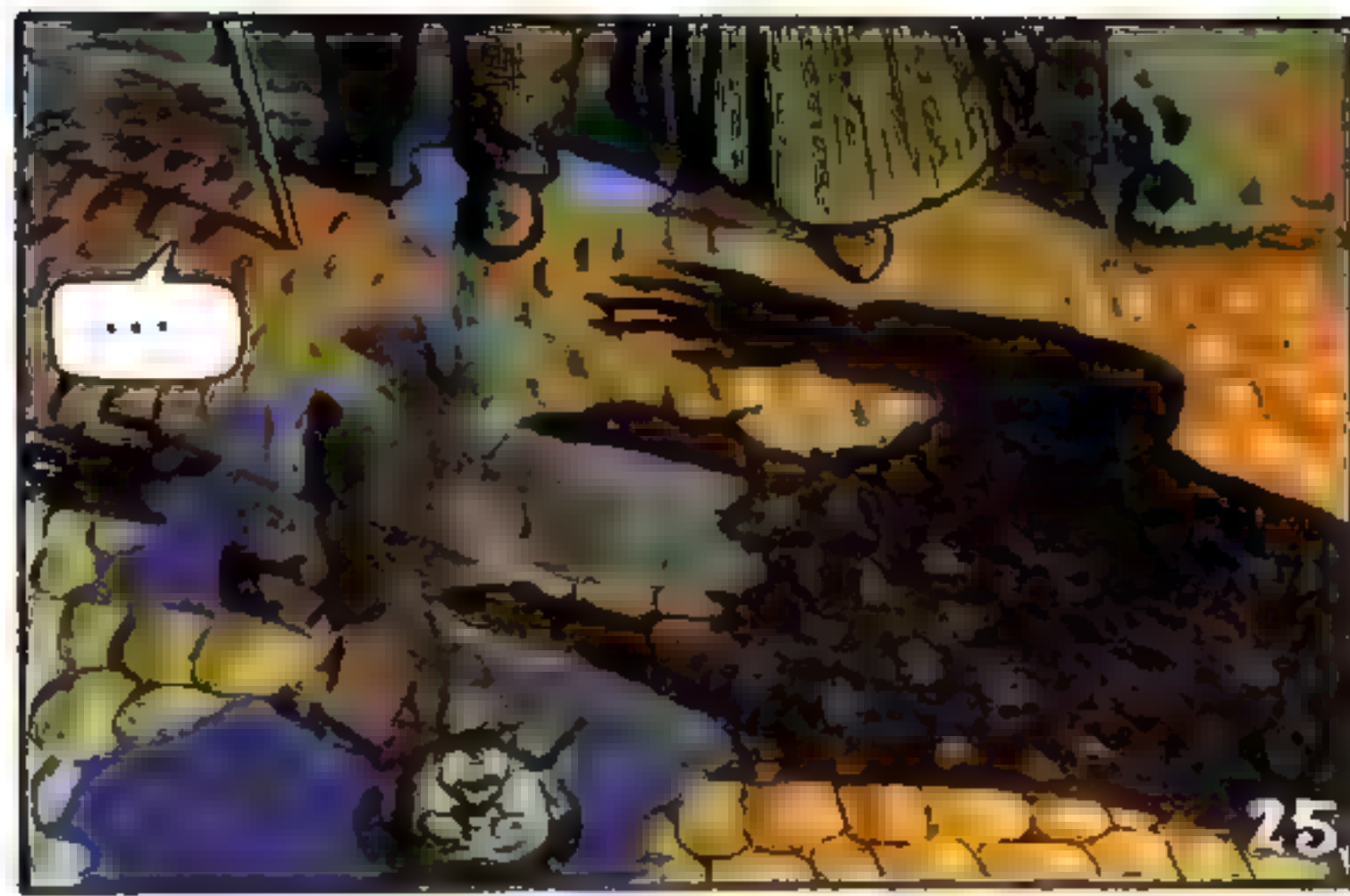
ALL THIS BECAUSE YOU
CANNOT FACE YOUR
AFFLICTION LIKE A MAN.
WITH COURAGE, AS ANY



DON'T YOU KNOW
THE MEANING OF
DIGNITY AND
HONOR?

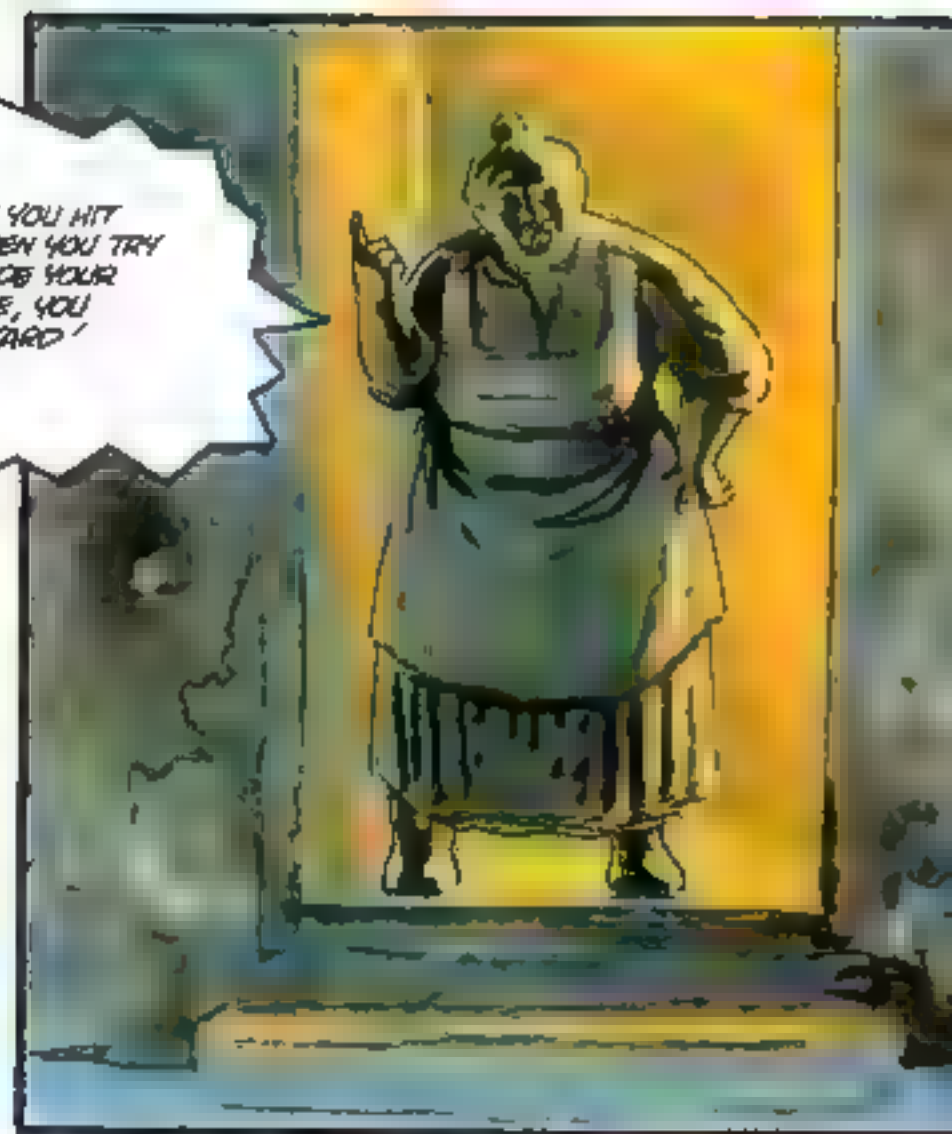








FIRST YOU HIT
ME... THEN YOU TRY
TO HIDE YOUR
BOOTS, YOU
BASTARD!



YOU WANT TO DRINK
IT ALL BY YOURSELF, YOU
MULE SHIT! BUT YOU WON'T
HIDE IT FROM ME, AND I'LL
TAKE IT FROM YOUR GUT
IF I HAVE TO!



WATCH OUT,
OLD MAN...
BE CAREFUL...



TAKE YOUR DIRTY
HANDS OFF OF ME, MON-
STER! I DON'T WANT
YOUR HELP! DON'T YOU
KNOW WHAT YOU LOOK
LIKE WITH THOSE LEGS
OF YOURS?

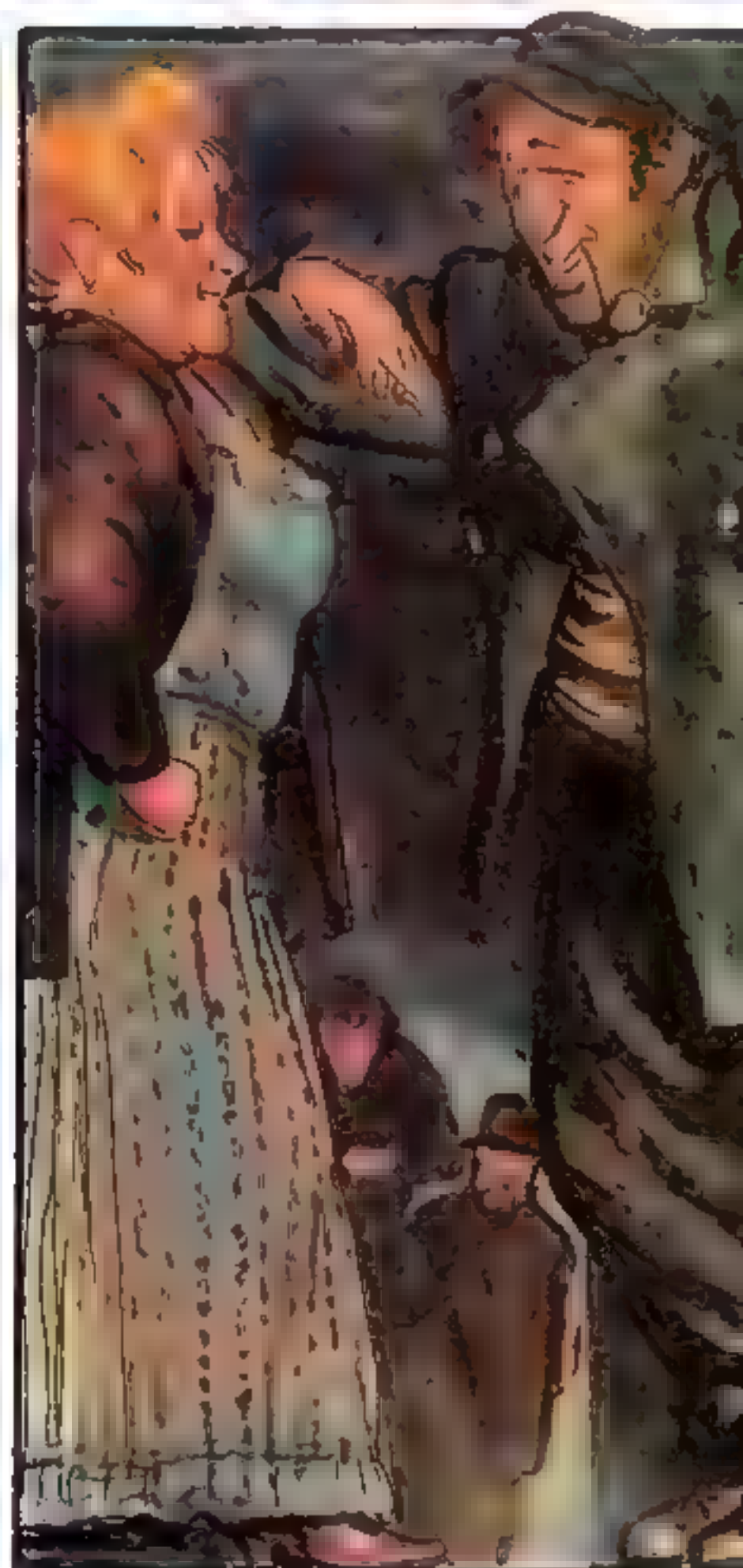
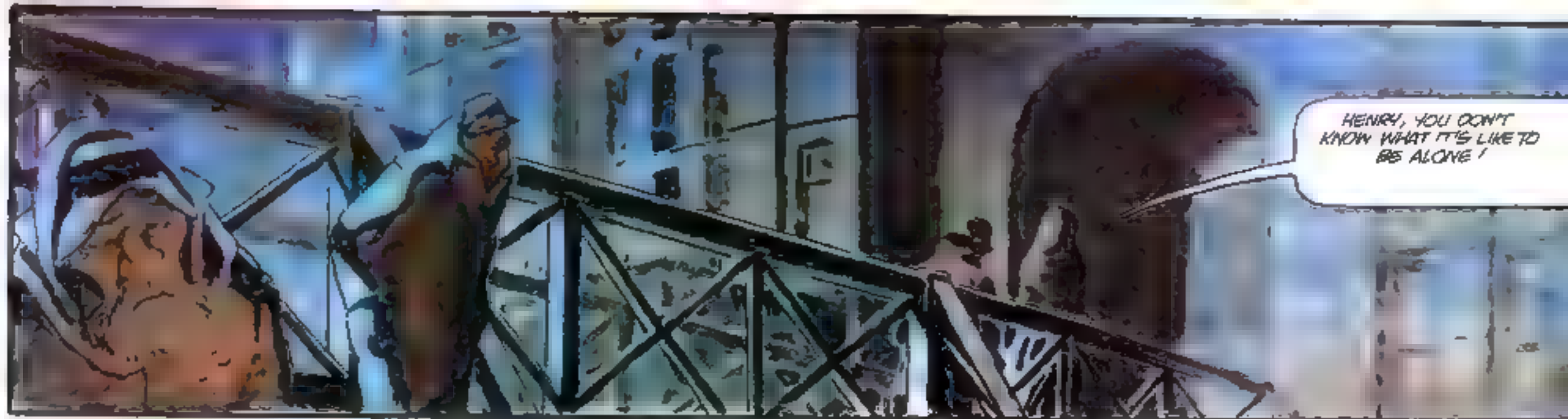


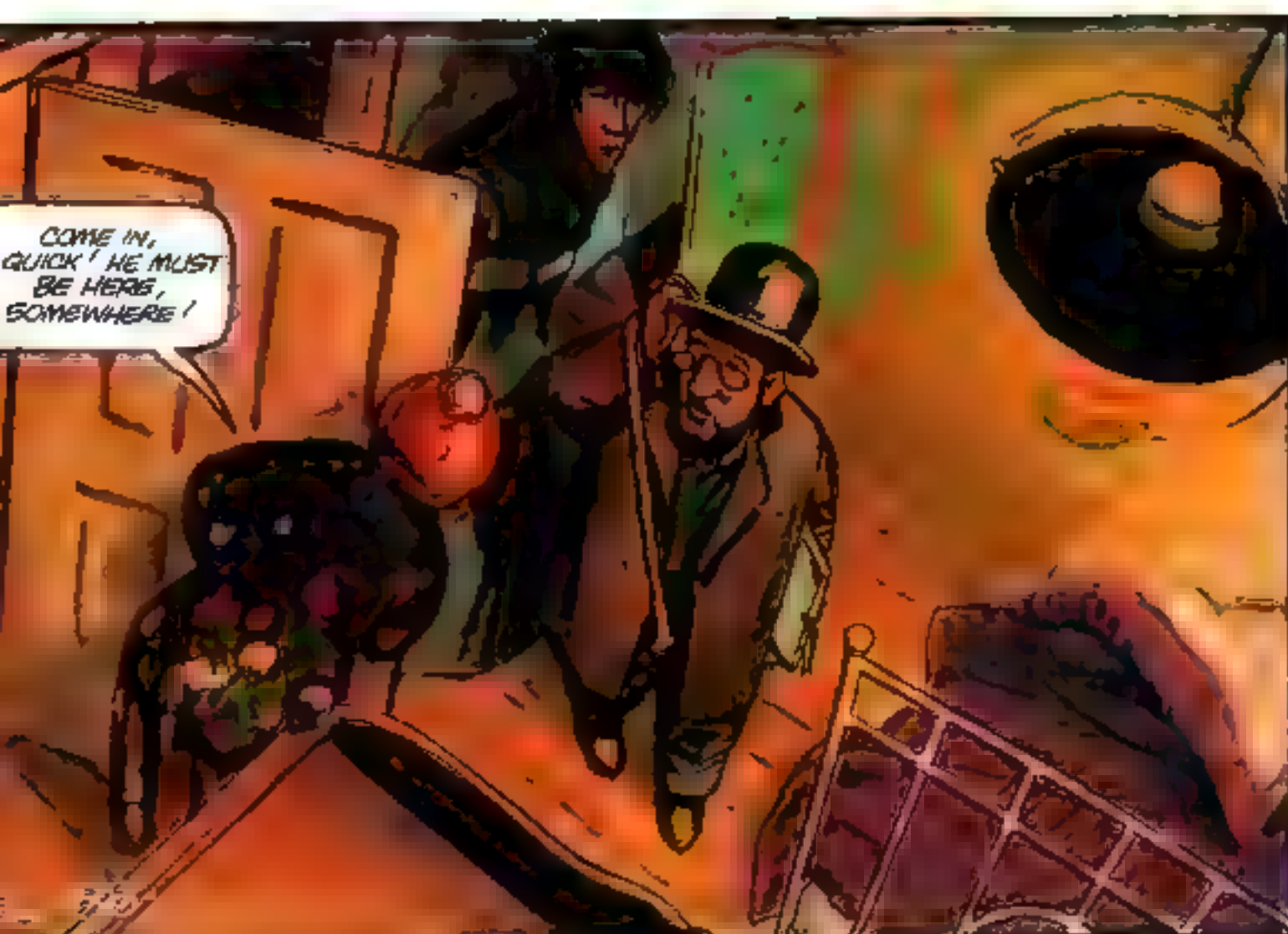
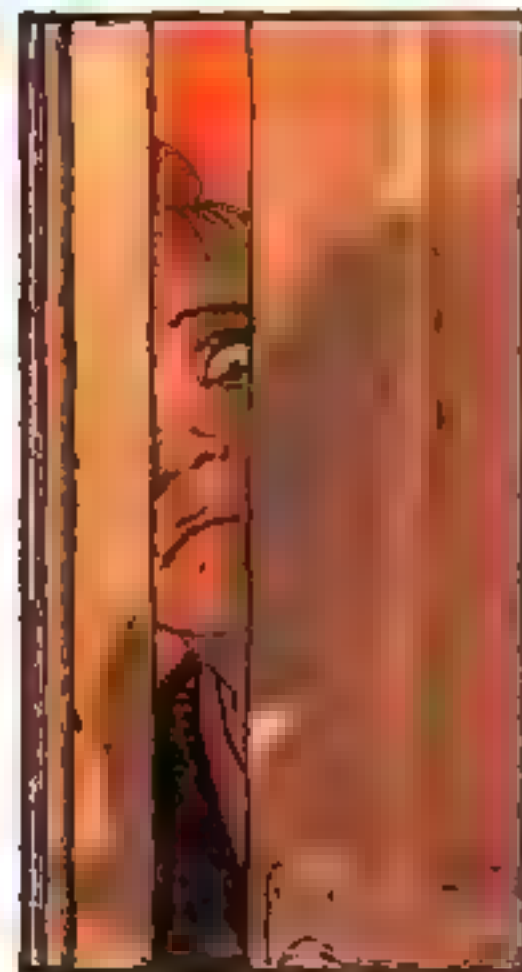
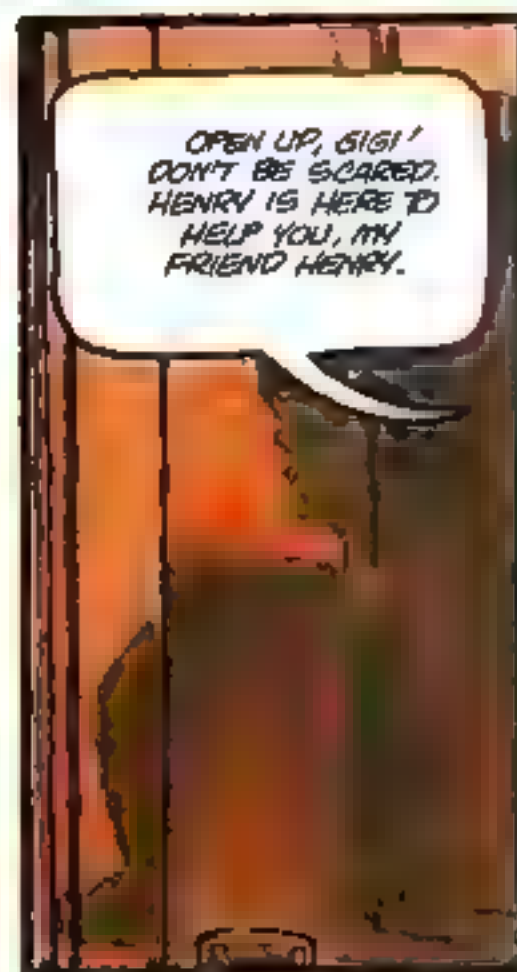
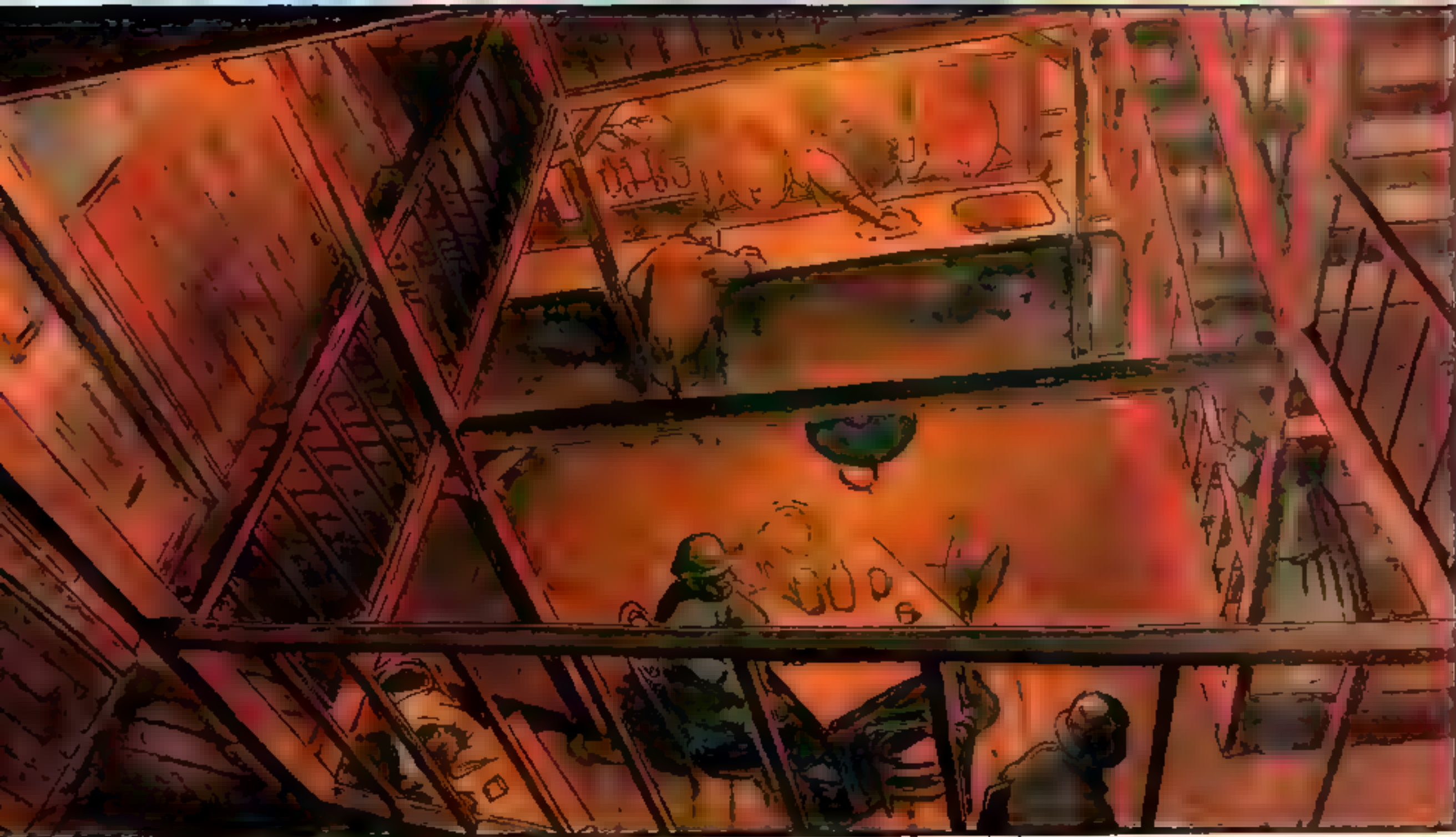
HOW DARE YOU CALL
ANYONE A MONSTER, YOU
REVOLTING HUMAN REJECT!
YOU OLD RAT! WHERE IS
YOUR TAIL? I HOPE YOU
DROWN IN THAT GAR-
BAGE; THE SMELL
AROUND HERE
WOULD
IMPROVE, YOU
OLD
CARCASS!

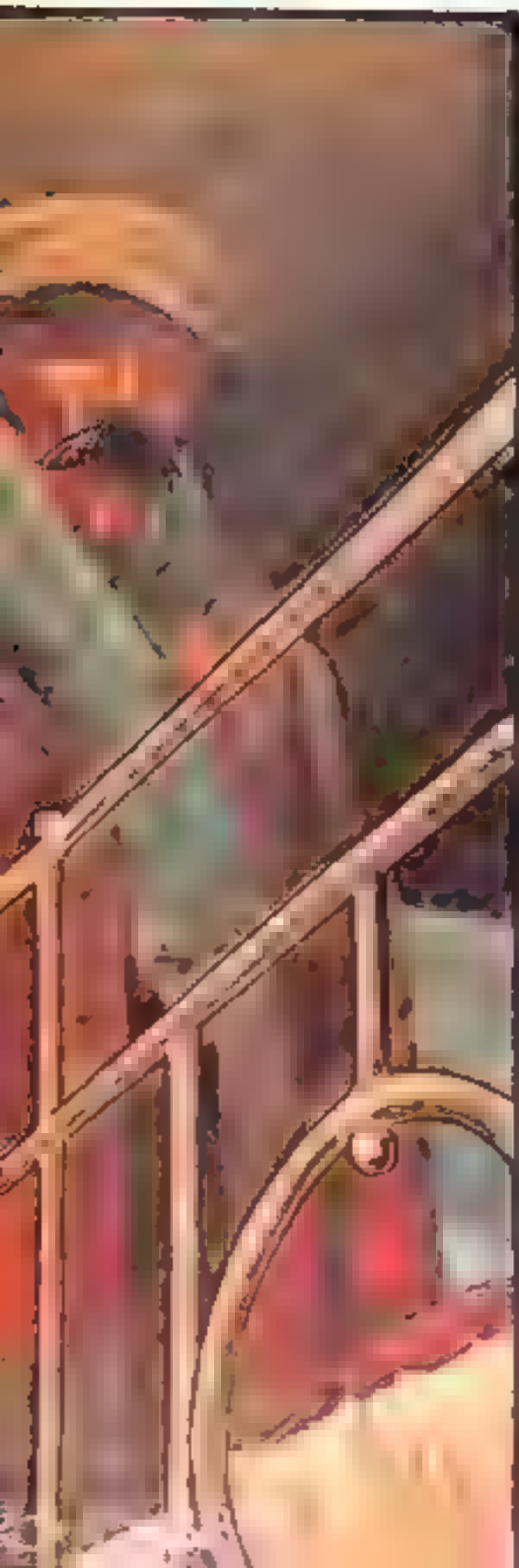
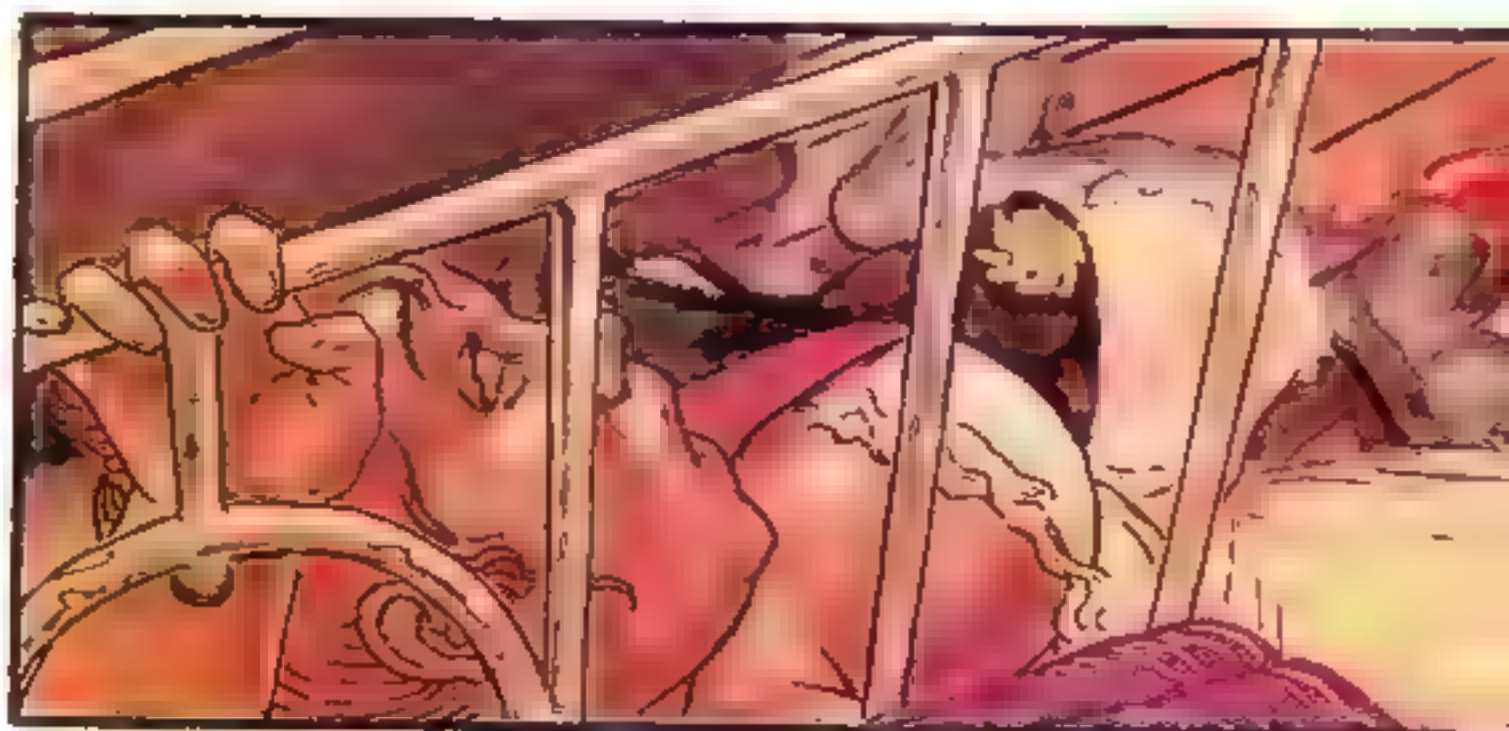


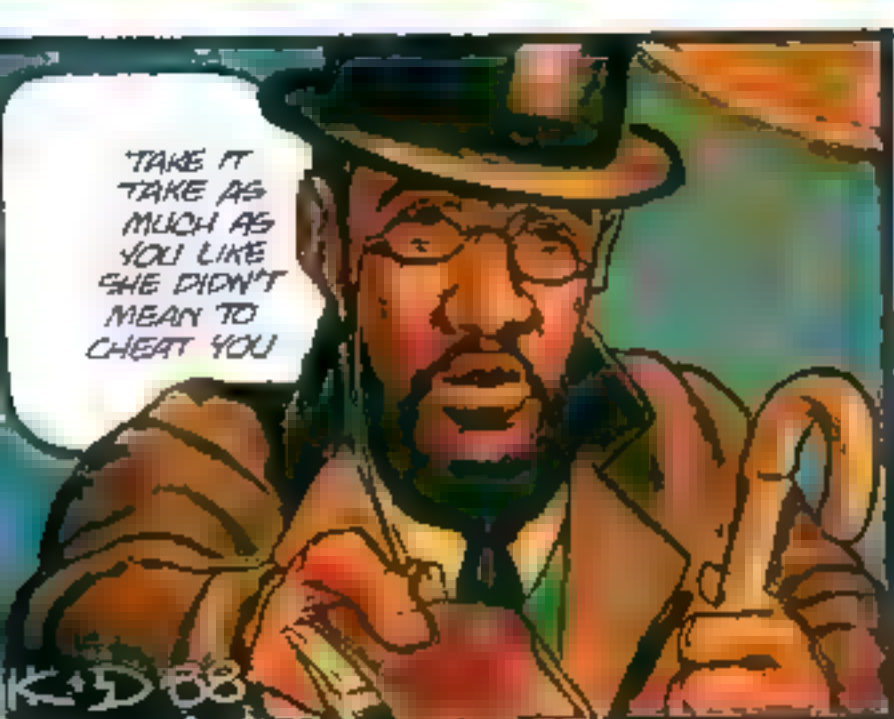
YOU CAN ALWAYS TELL A
WHORE WITH A LOOSE TONGUE.
YOU'D BETTER LEAVE RIGHT
AWAY WITH YOUR DWARF OR
I'LL MAKE YOU REGRET IT!

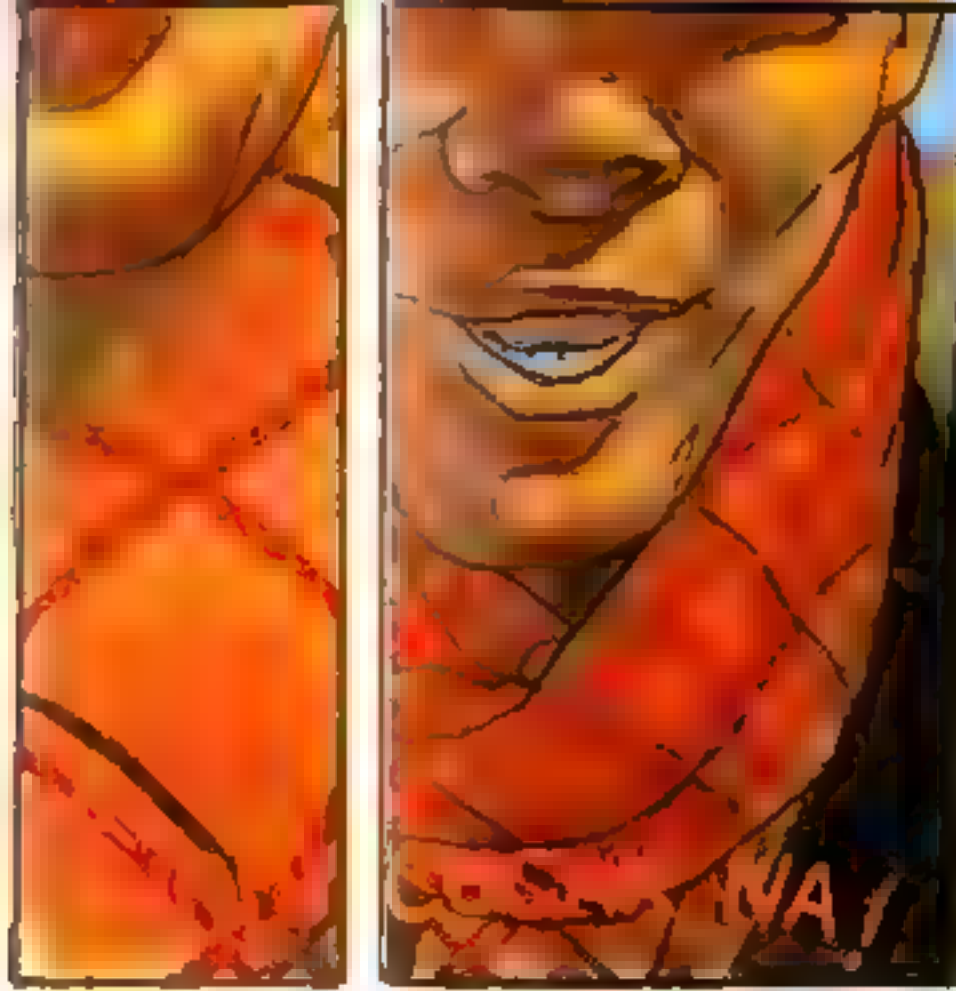












E, MOJ KUM, AKO JE OBO HEHTAP ČESTOKE
MYLITPE, OHAJA ŽEOTOM UHOVIO, HUCAM TE
NA BOJA'O!

ČUJ, STARI, KULTURA
SE NE UČI, ONA SE
NASLJEDUJE

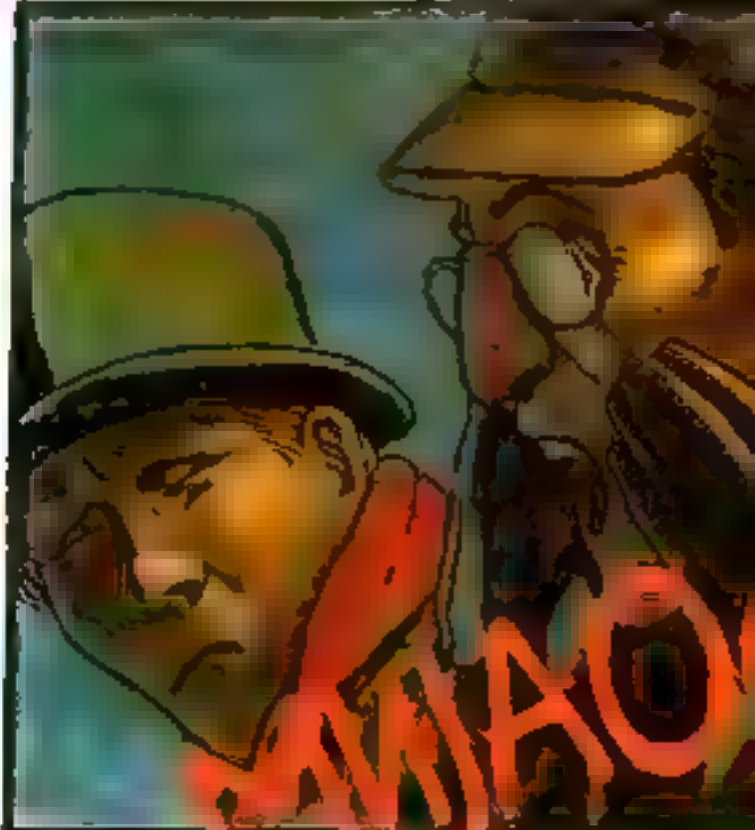


Y, JEBOJE,
YEN ME
NPEJAKA
PEV!

HOOI, CUDAK,
NE BOJIS SE
TI MENE,
JEL'DA?



OHAJA MY TO
HA FRENCH,
BOJDE FETE CE
PAZYNIETH!



OH, GOD, HENRY!
DID HE TAKE ALL
YOUR MONEY?

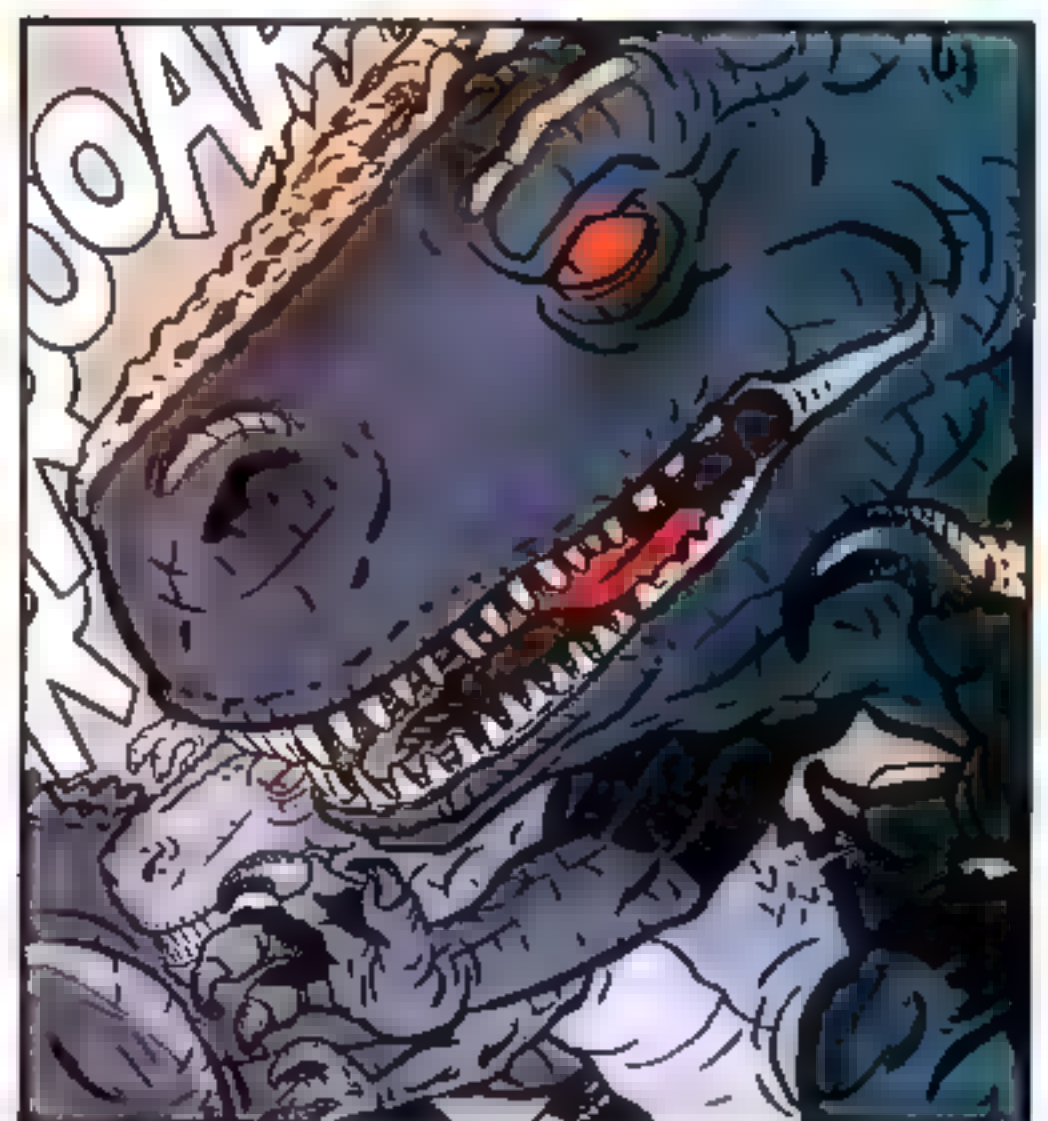
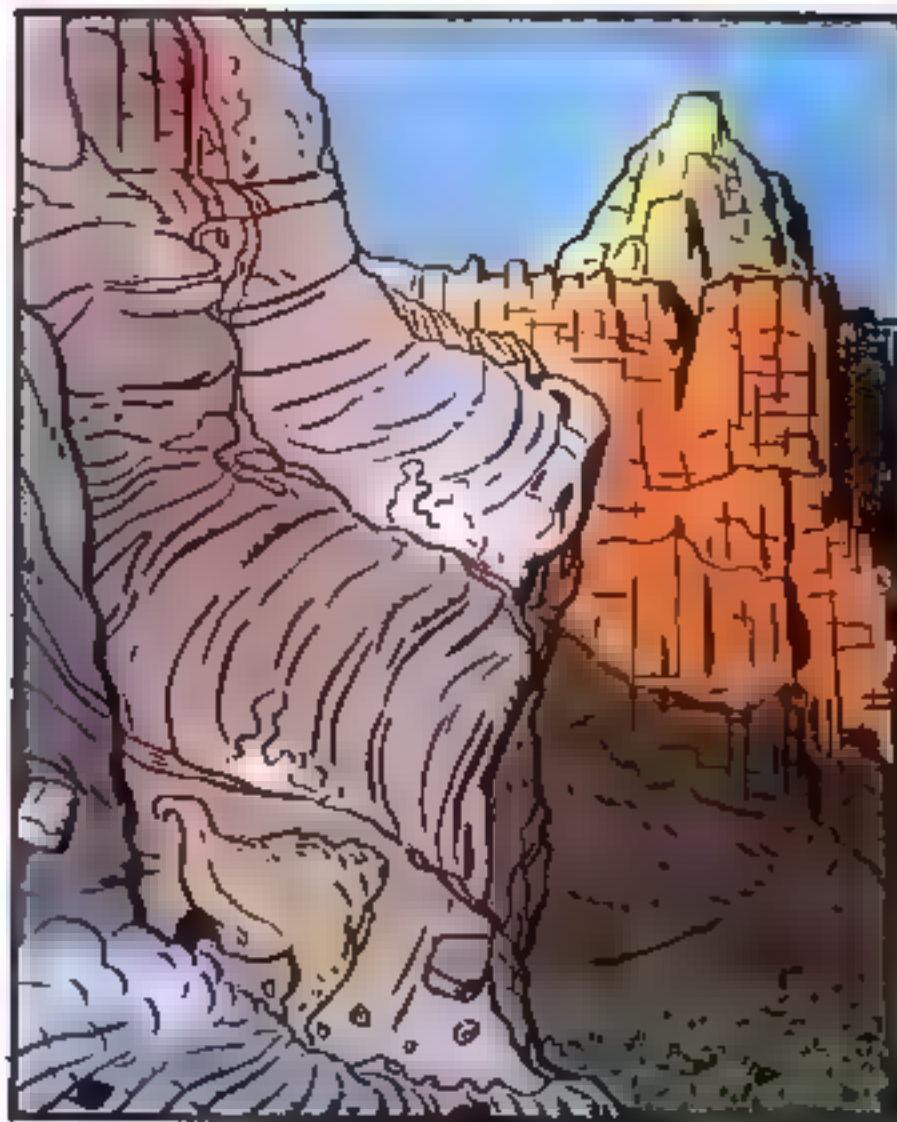
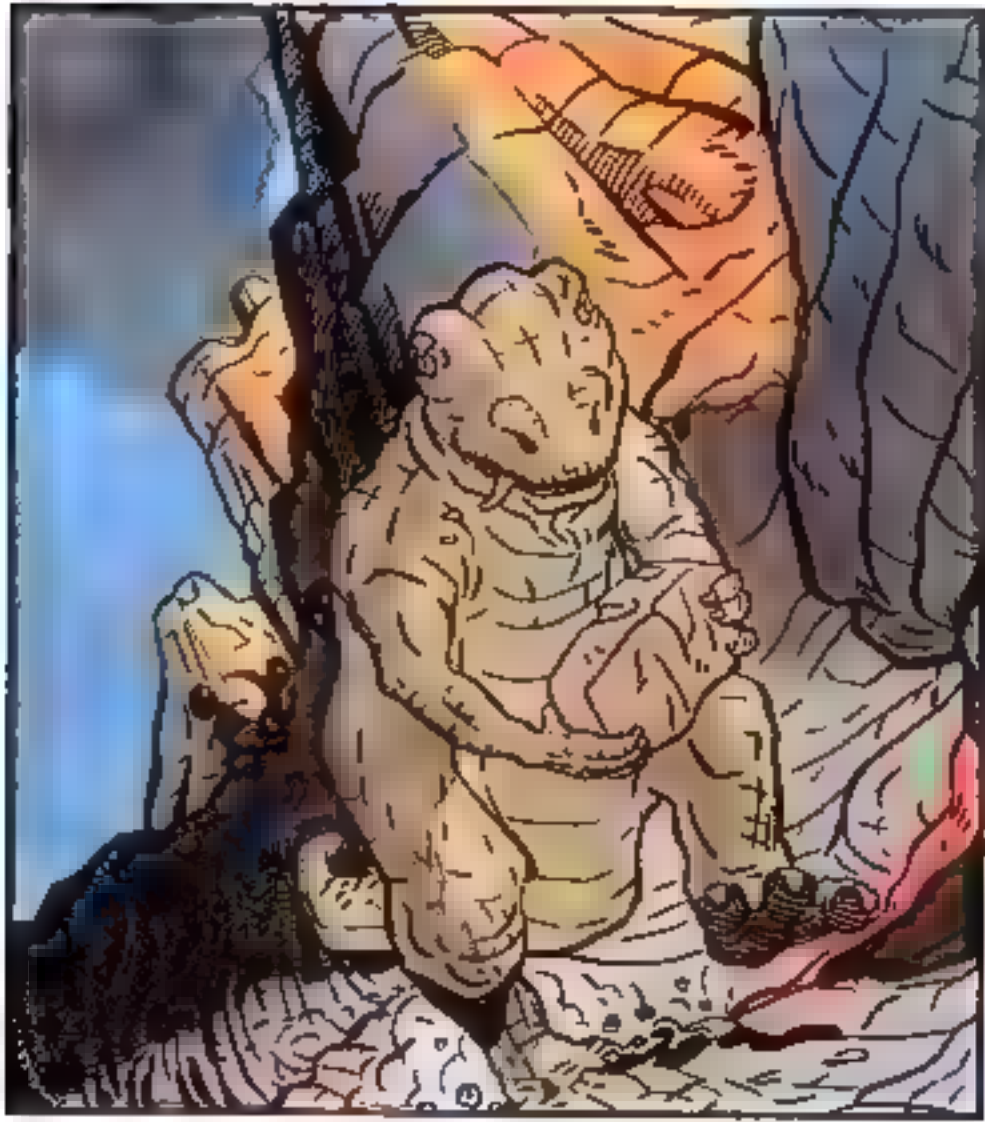
FORGET ABOUT IT, WILL
YOU? MONEY IS NOT A
PROBLEM WHEN YOU
HAVE IT

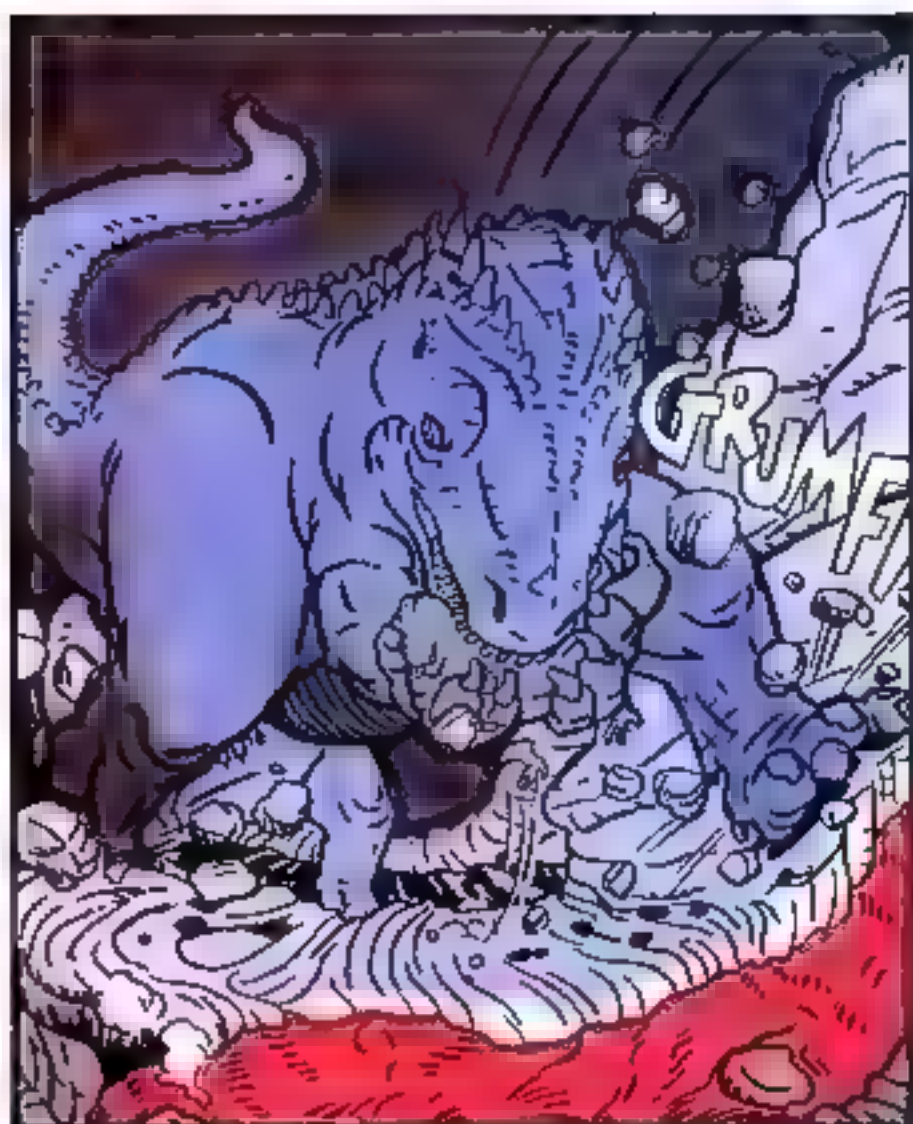
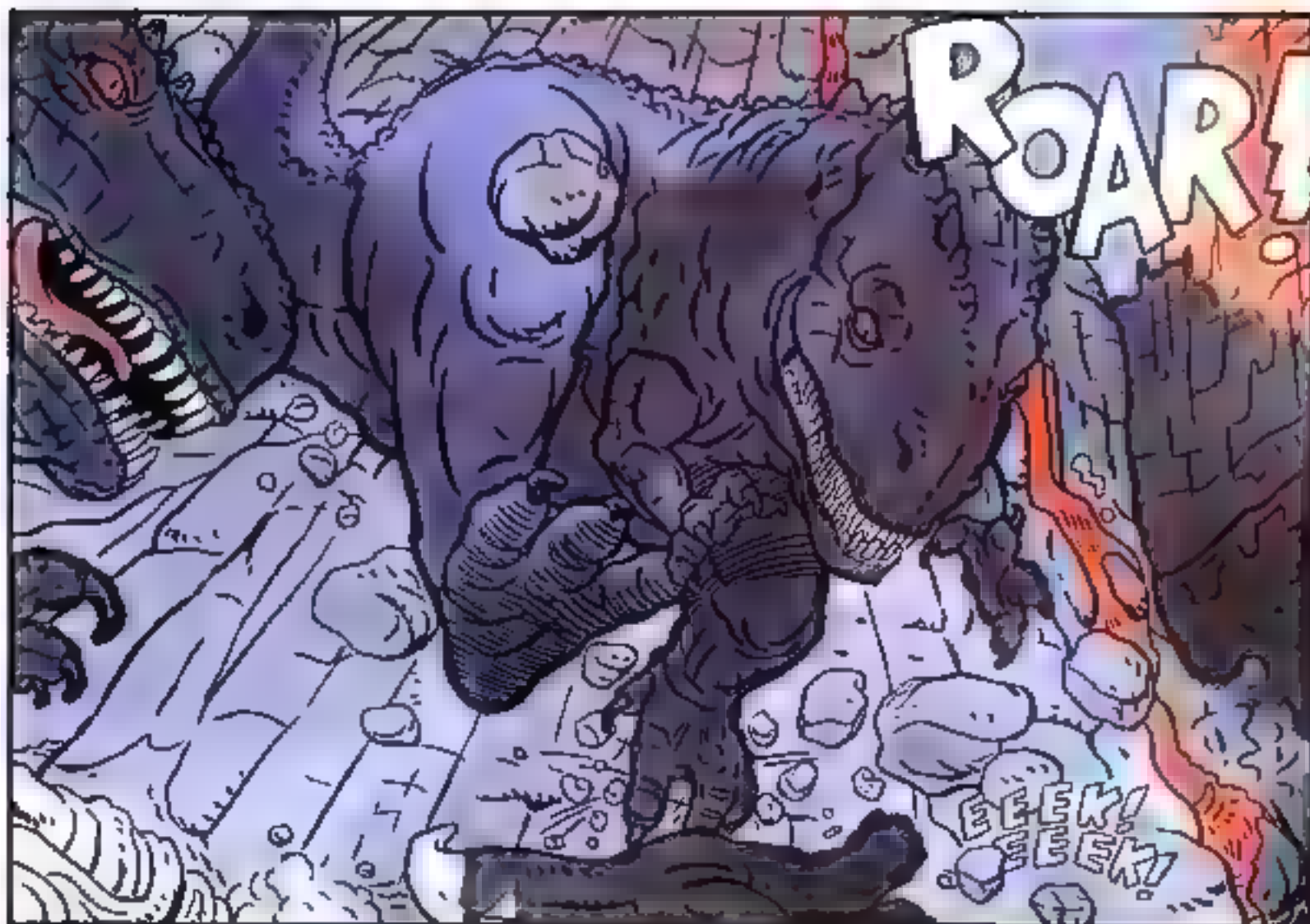
DA ME NEČEŠ TI MO-
ZDA UČITI FRANCUŠKOM,
SIR?

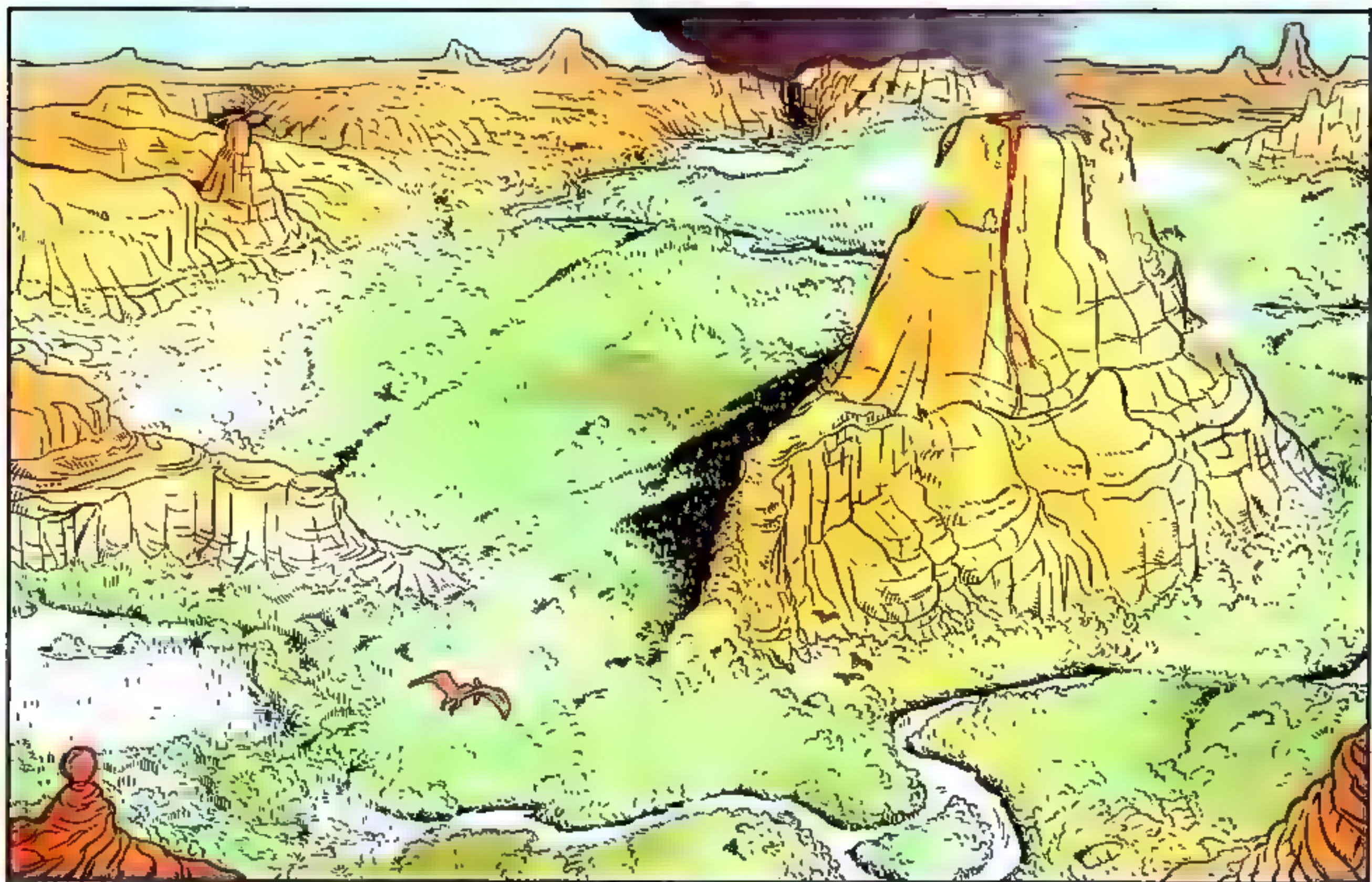


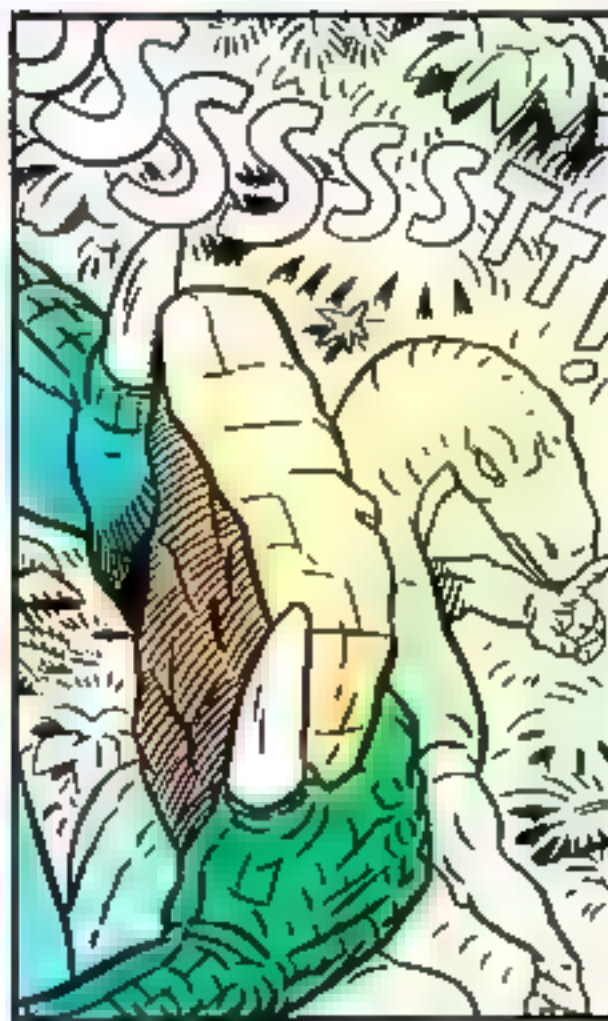
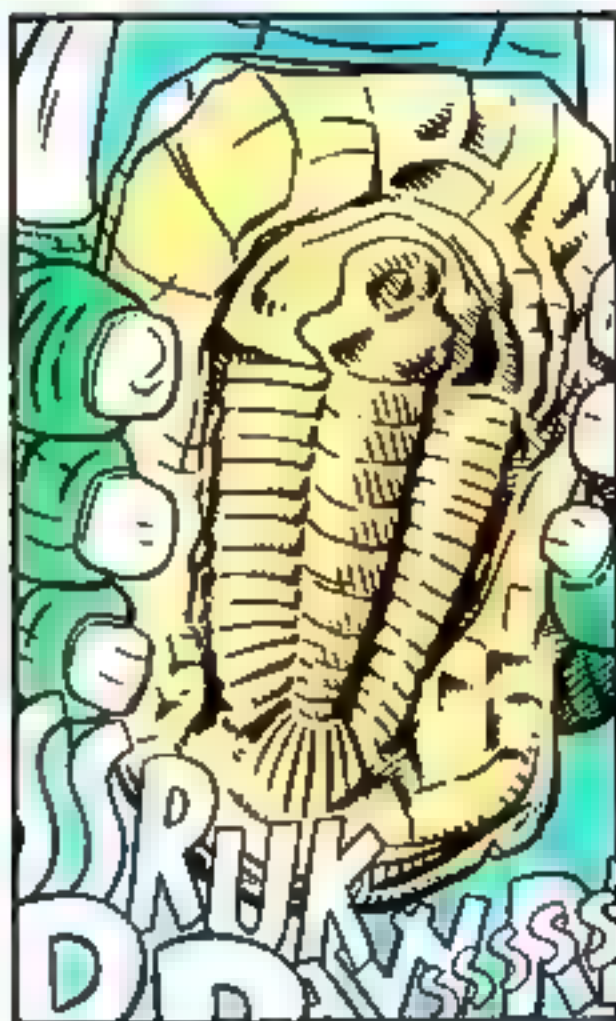
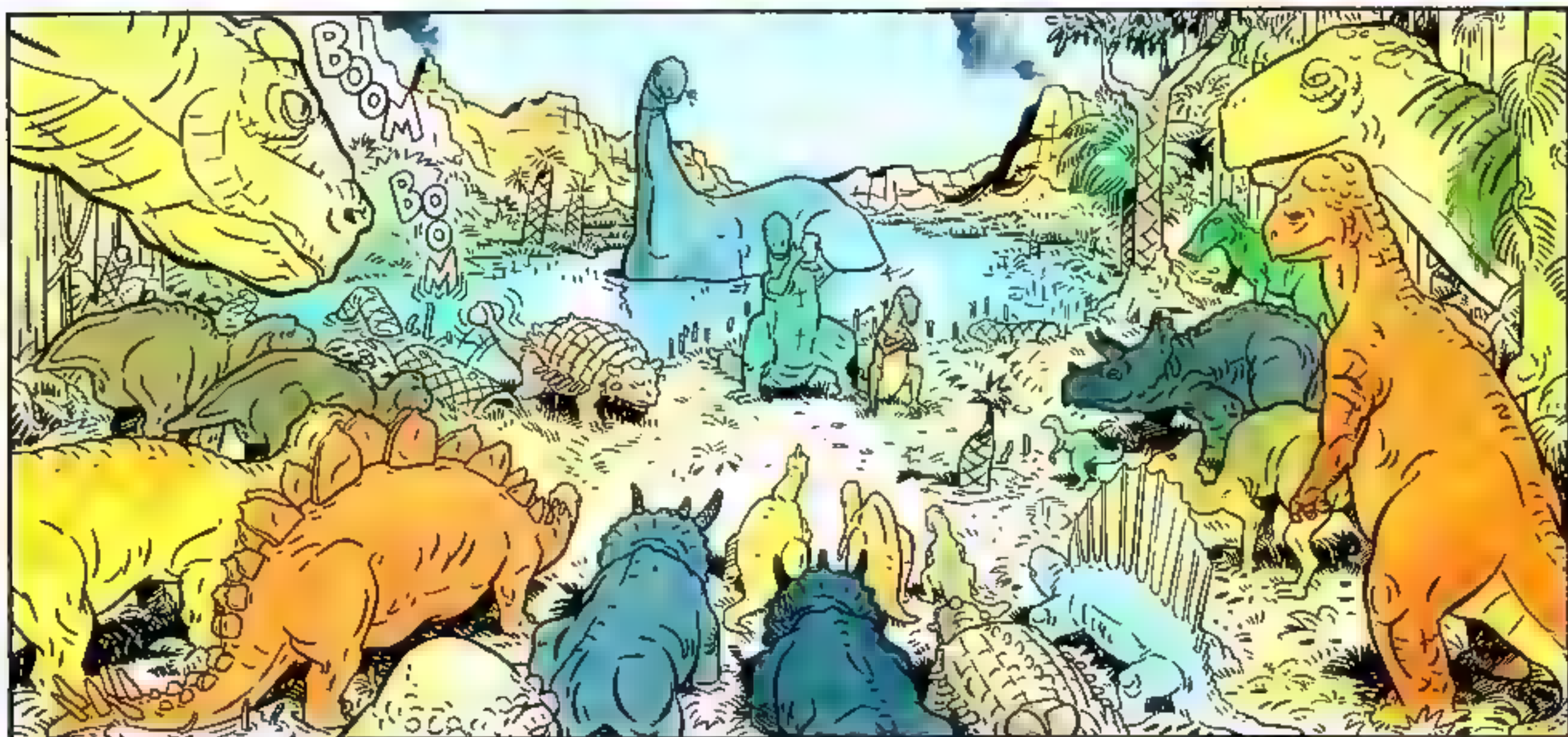
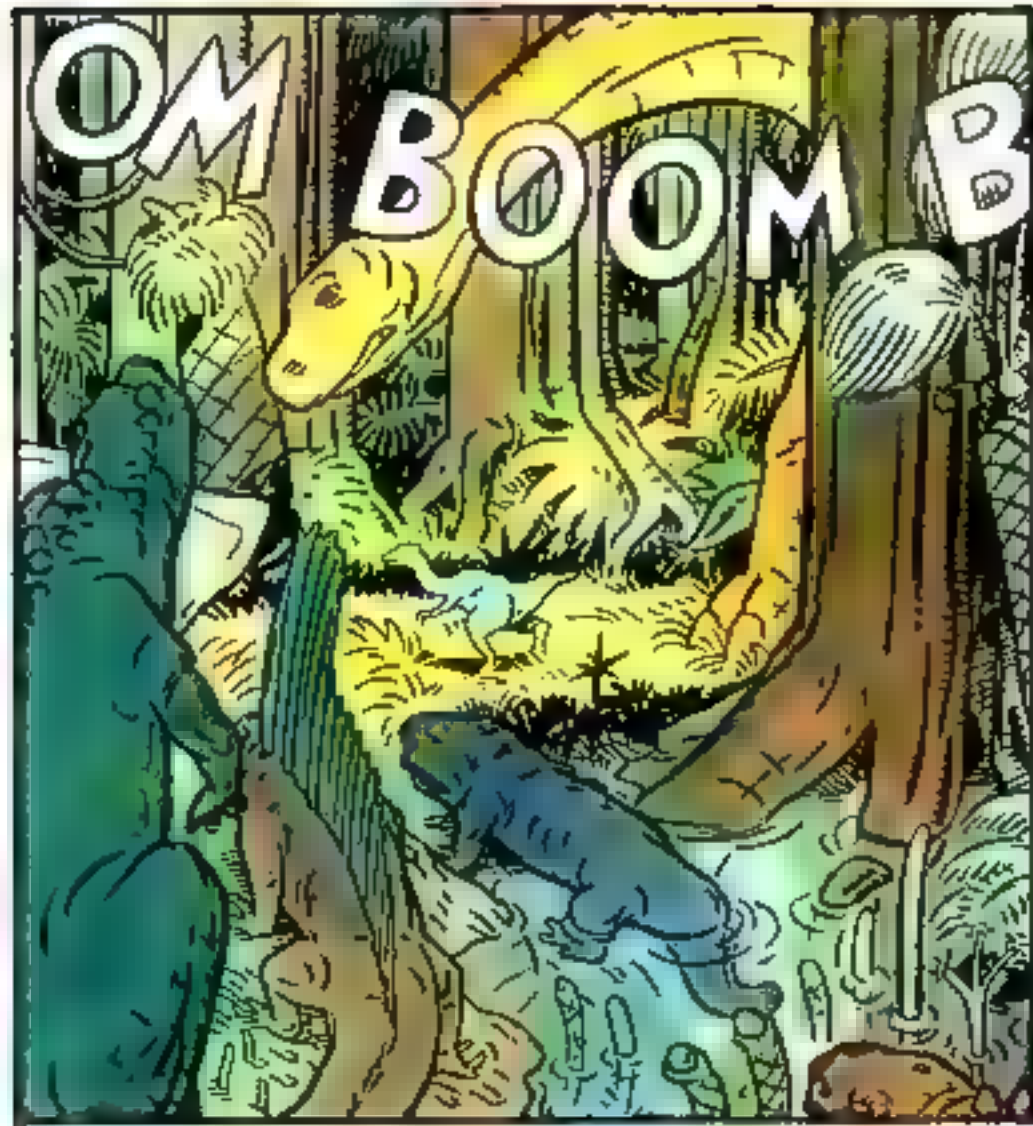
THAT IDIOT!
WHEN I THINK
THAT HE
WANTED TO
DISFIGURE ME!
HENRY, I'D LIKE
TO REPAY MY
DEBT TO YOU
WE COULD GO
TO YOUR PLACE
TONIGHT...
THE THREE OF
US...

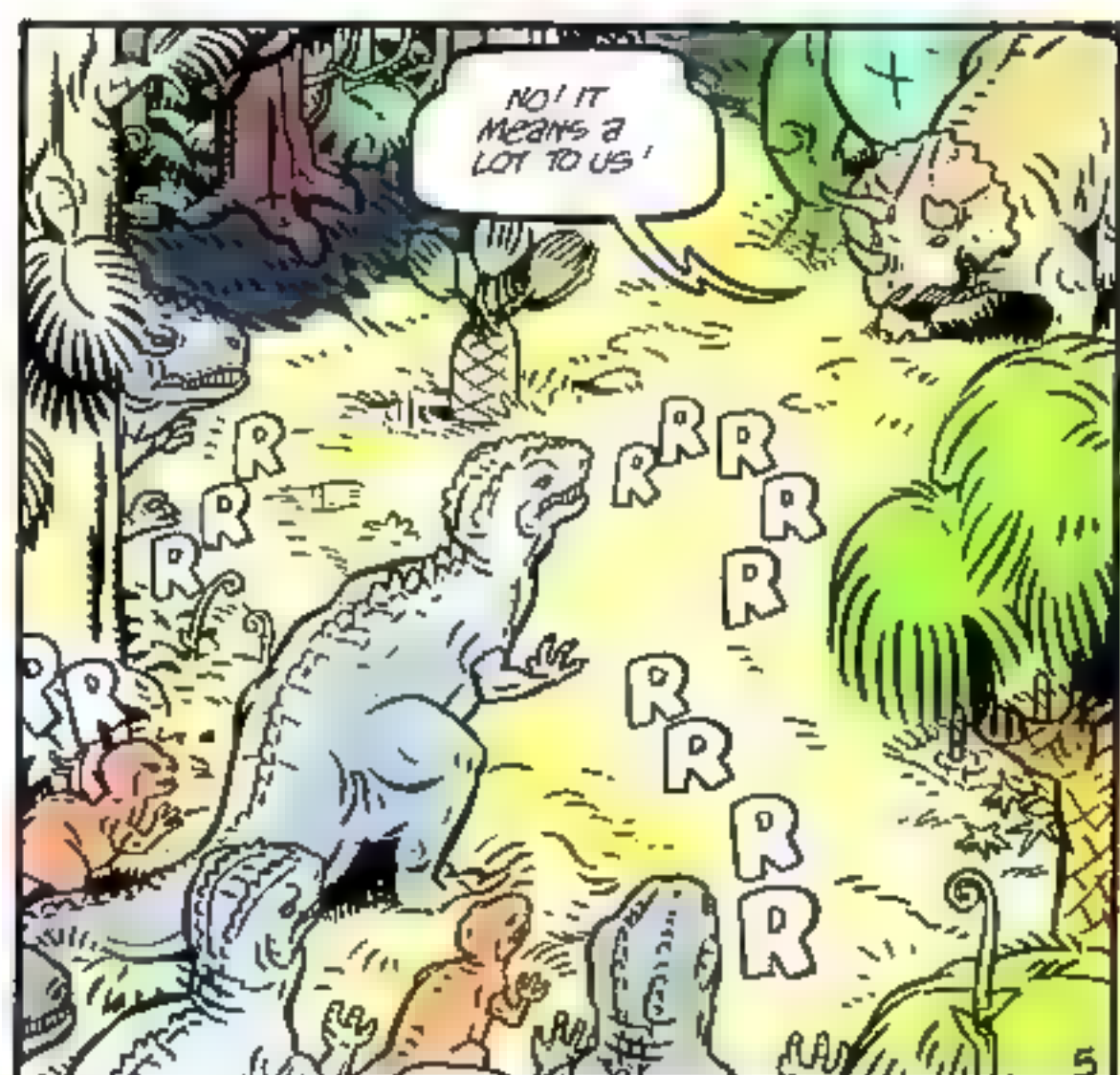
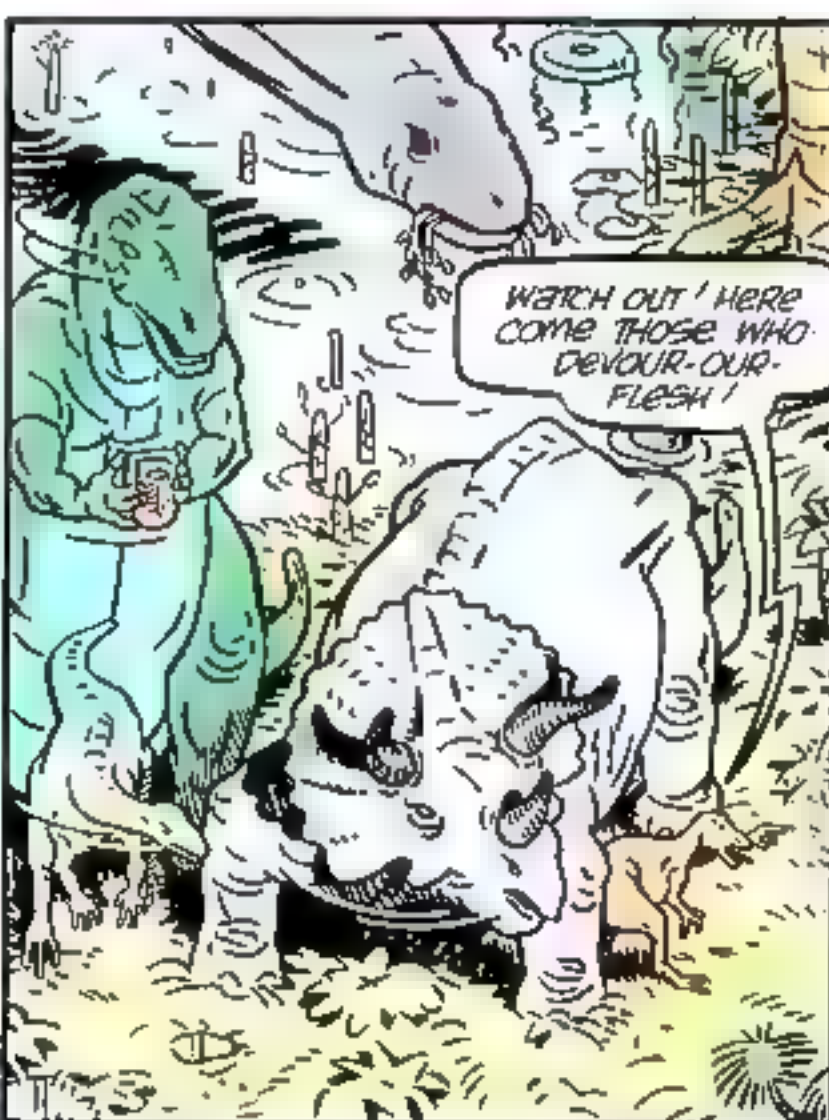
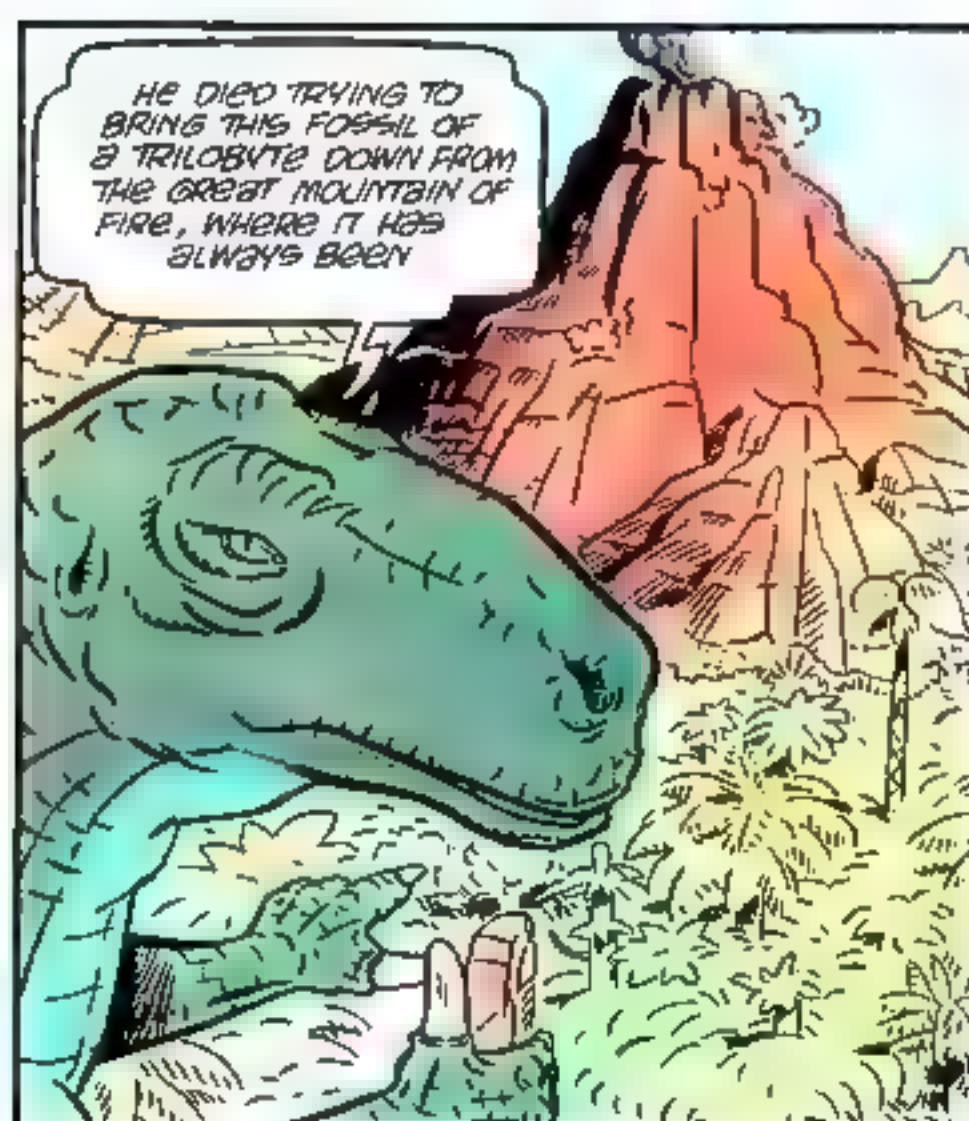
IT'S NOT THAT
IMPORTANT, DON'T
WORRY ABOUT IT..

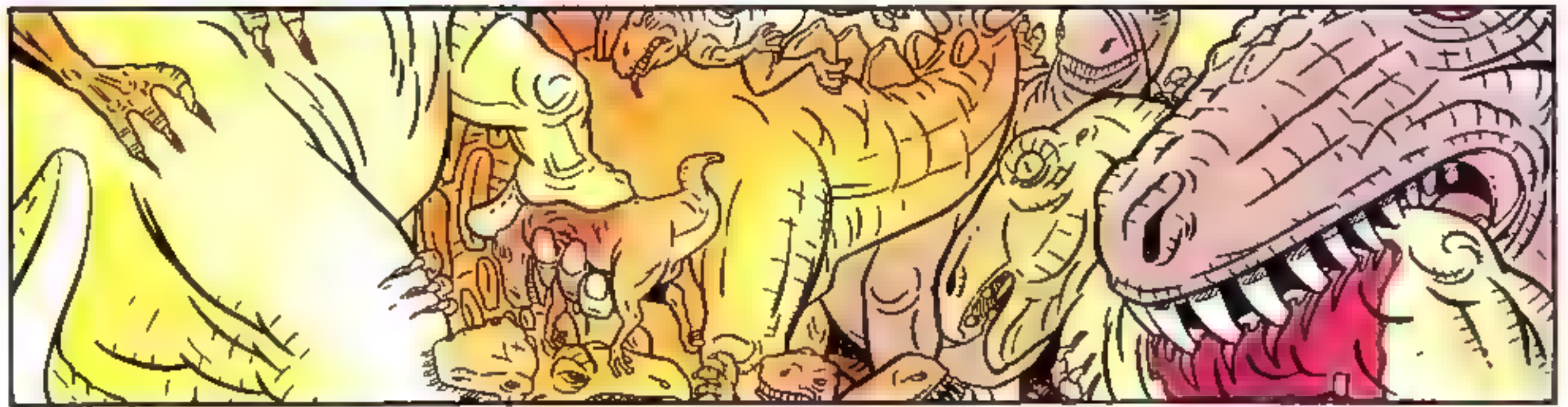


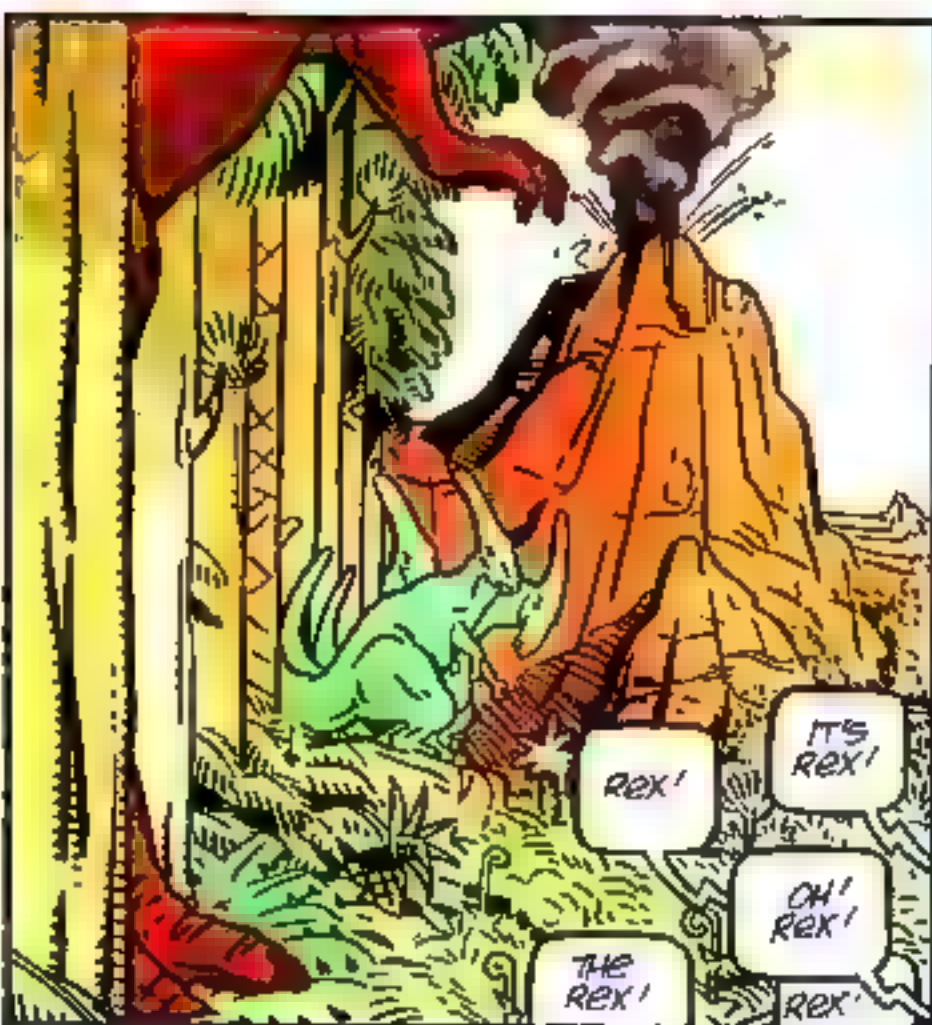
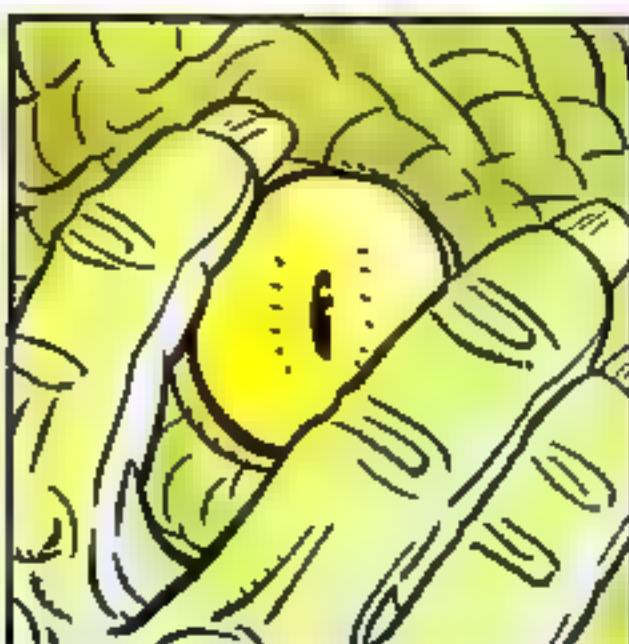
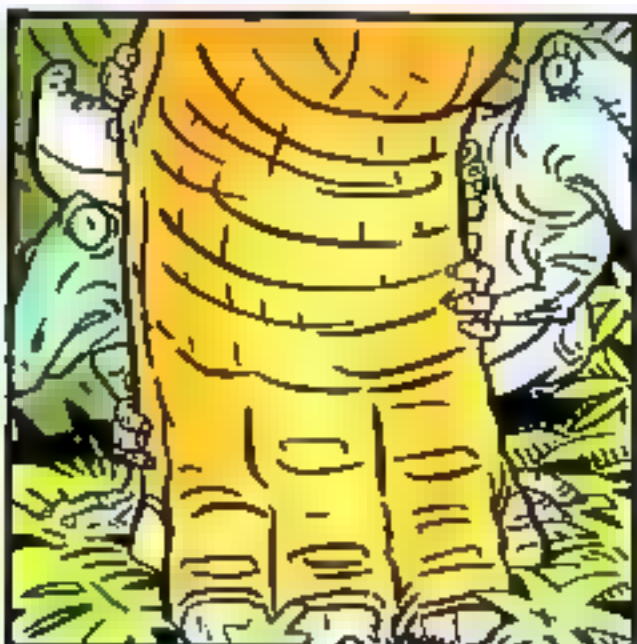
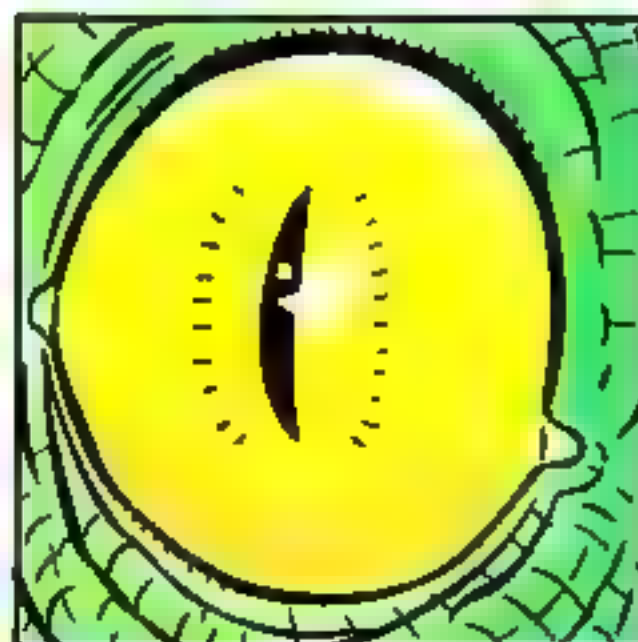
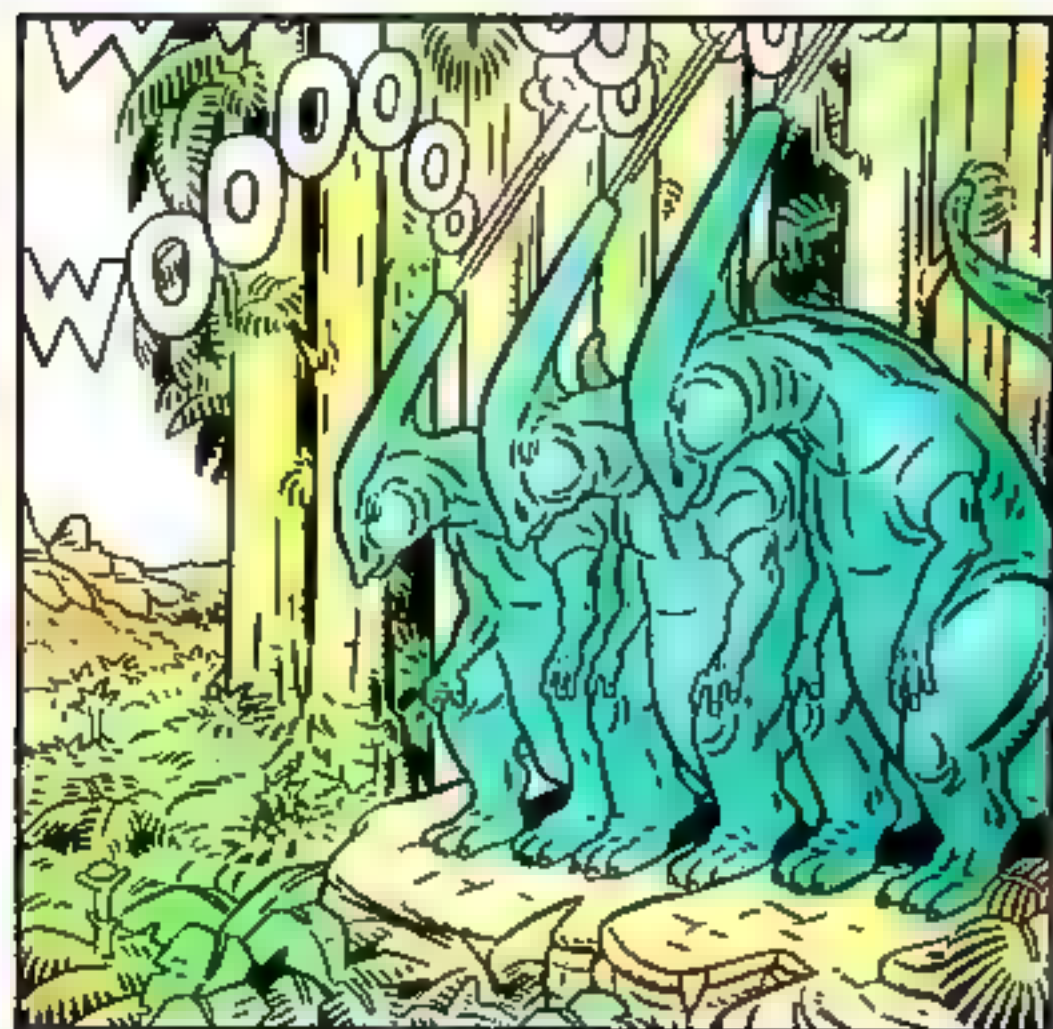






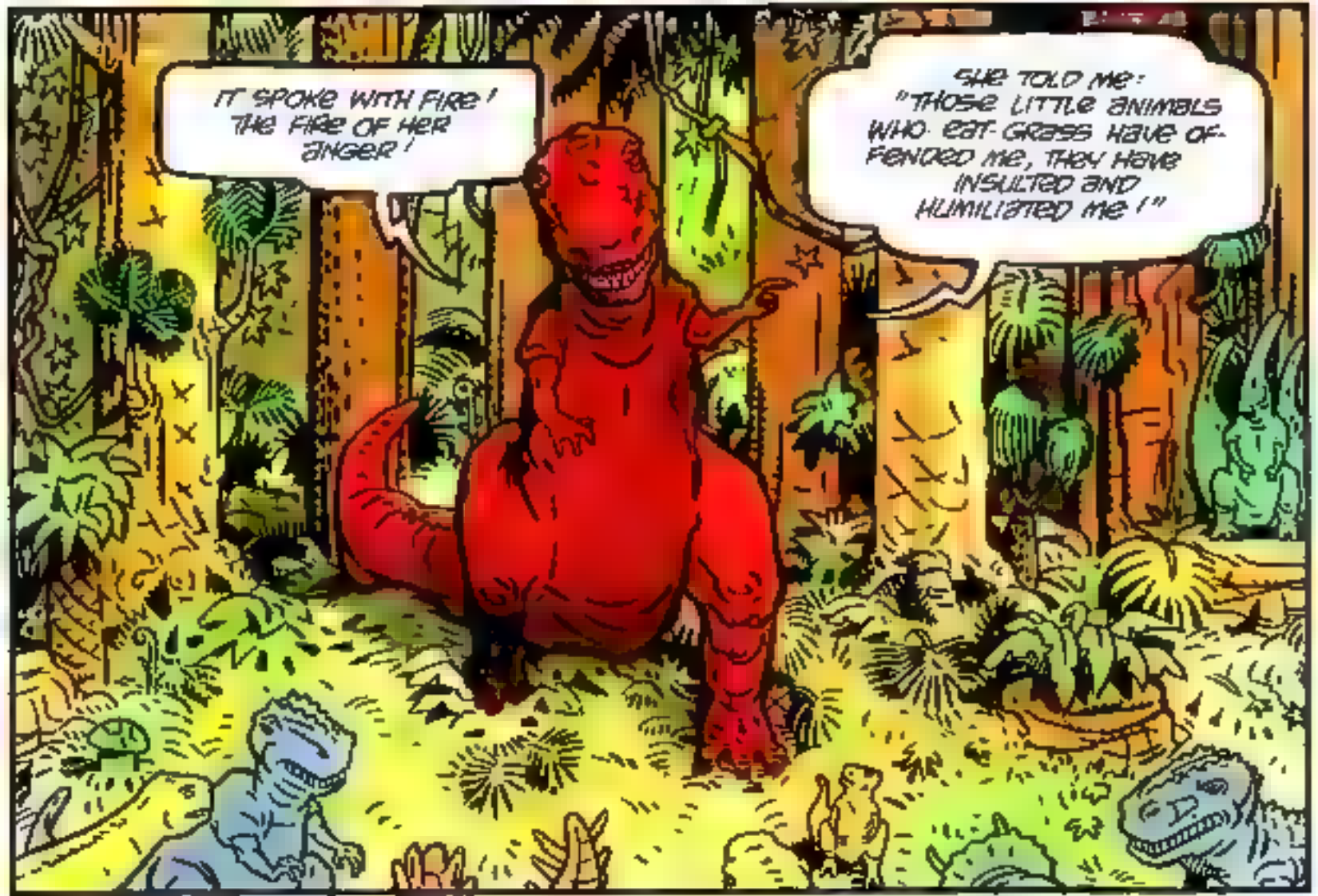








DID YOU LISTEN TO
THE GREAT
MOUNTAIN?



IT SPOKE WITH FIRE!
THE FIRE OF HER
ANGER!

SHE TOLD ME:
"THOSE LITTLE ANIMALS
WHO EAT GRASS HAVE OF-
FENDED ME, THEY HAVE
INSULTED AND
HUMILIATED ME!"

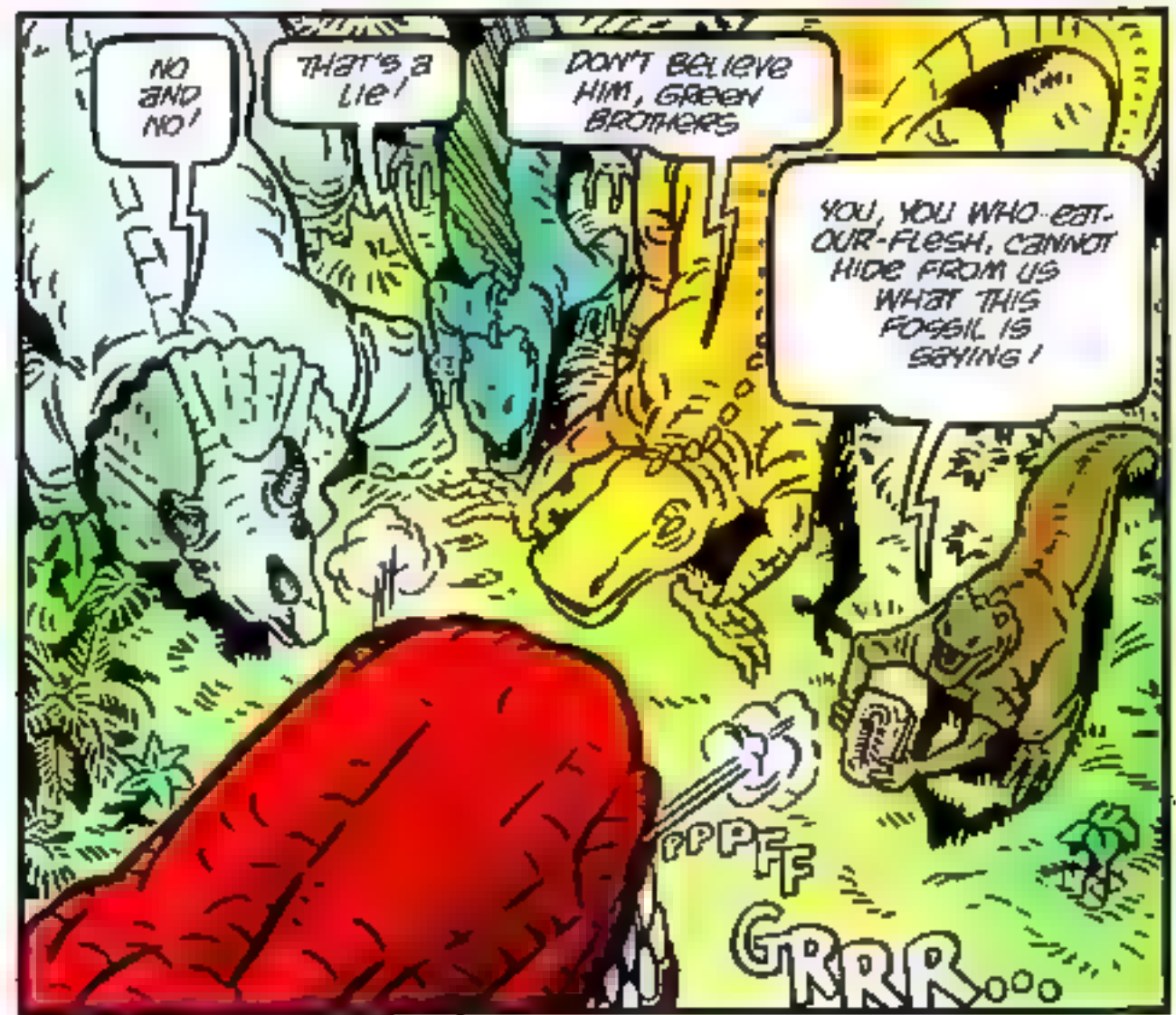


THE GREAT
MOUNTAIN DOES
NOTHING BUT SPOUT
SMOKE FOR US

GRRR!

HOW DARE YOU SAY THAT,
YOU DIRTY LITTLE TRICERA-
TOPS. SHE IS THE CREATOR
AND RULER OF THE EARTH AND SKY.
SHE IS OUR ETERNAL MOTHER, WHO
MADE US WHAT WE ARE
NOW.

WHAT WE
HAVE ALWAYS
BEEN!



NO
AND
NO!

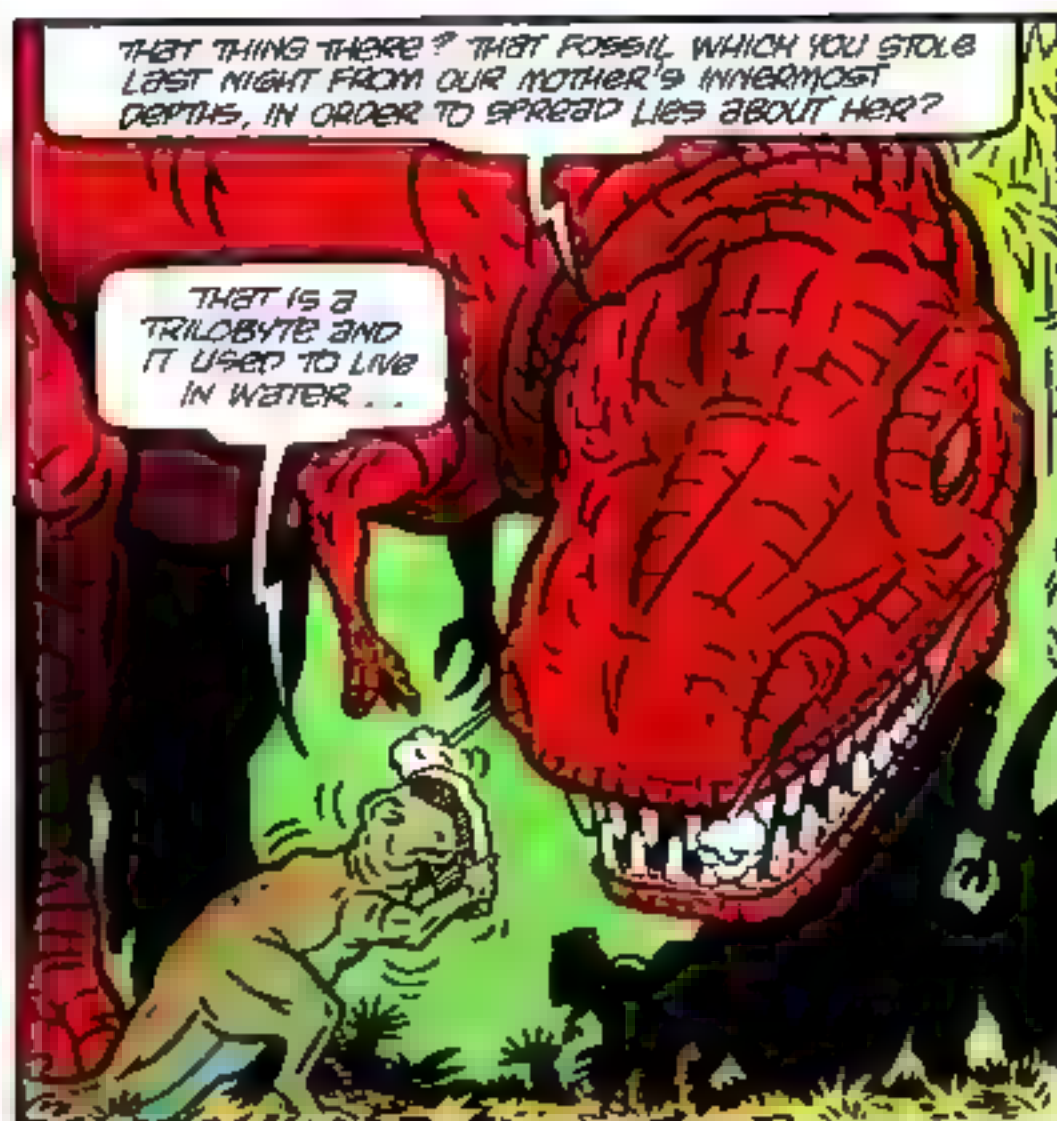
THAT'S A
LIE!

DON'T BELIEVE
HIM, GREEN
BROTHERS

YOU, YOU WHO EAT
OUR FLESH, CANNOT
HIDE FROM US
WHAT THIS
FOSSIL IS
SAYING!

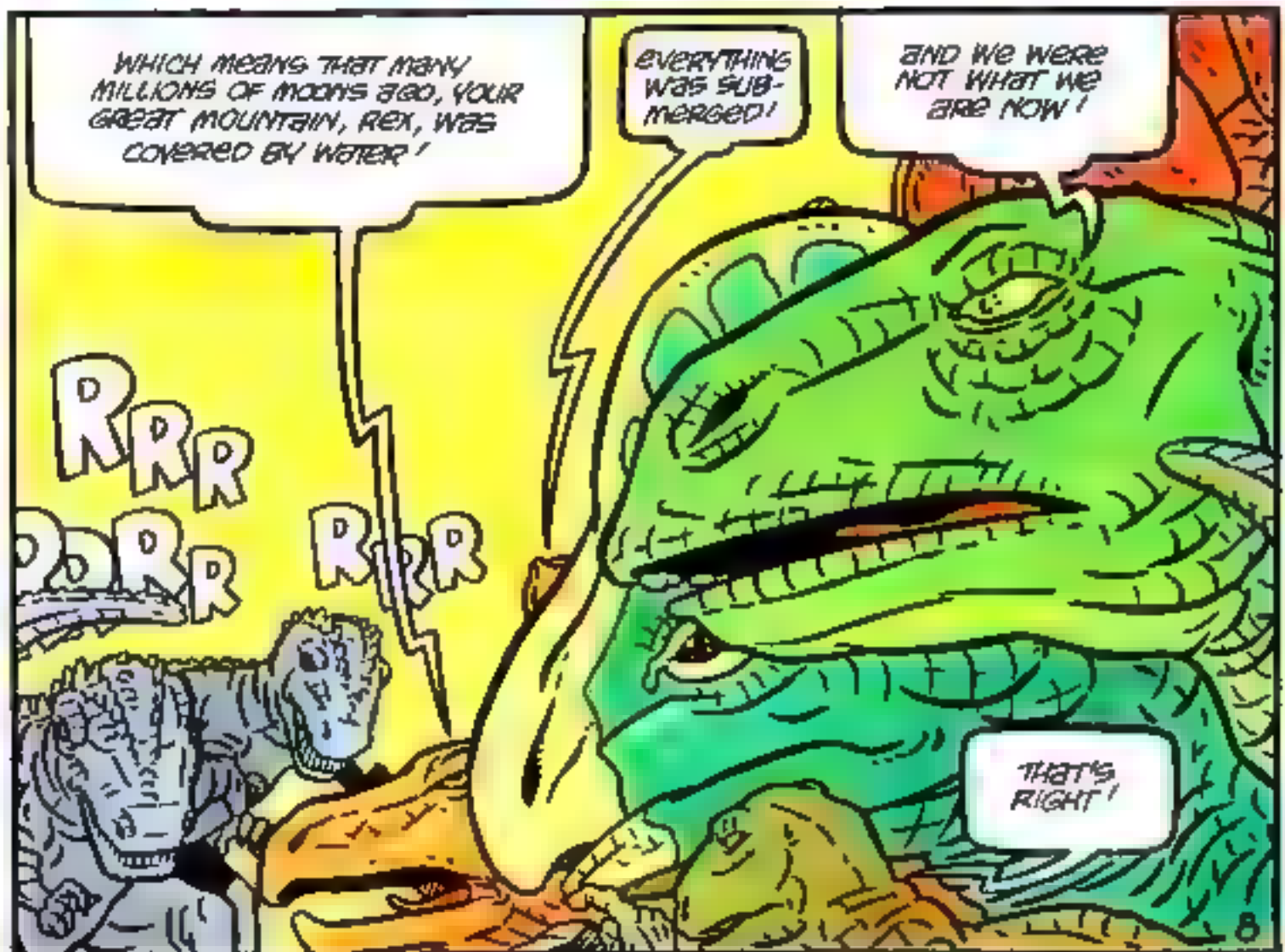
PPPF

GRRR...



THAT THING THERE? THAT FOSSIL, WHICH YOU STOLE
LAST NIGHT FROM OUR MOTHER'S INNERMOST
DEPTHS, IN ORDER TO SPREAD LIES ABOUT HER?

THAT IS A
TRILOBYTE AND
IT USED TO LIVE
IN WATER...



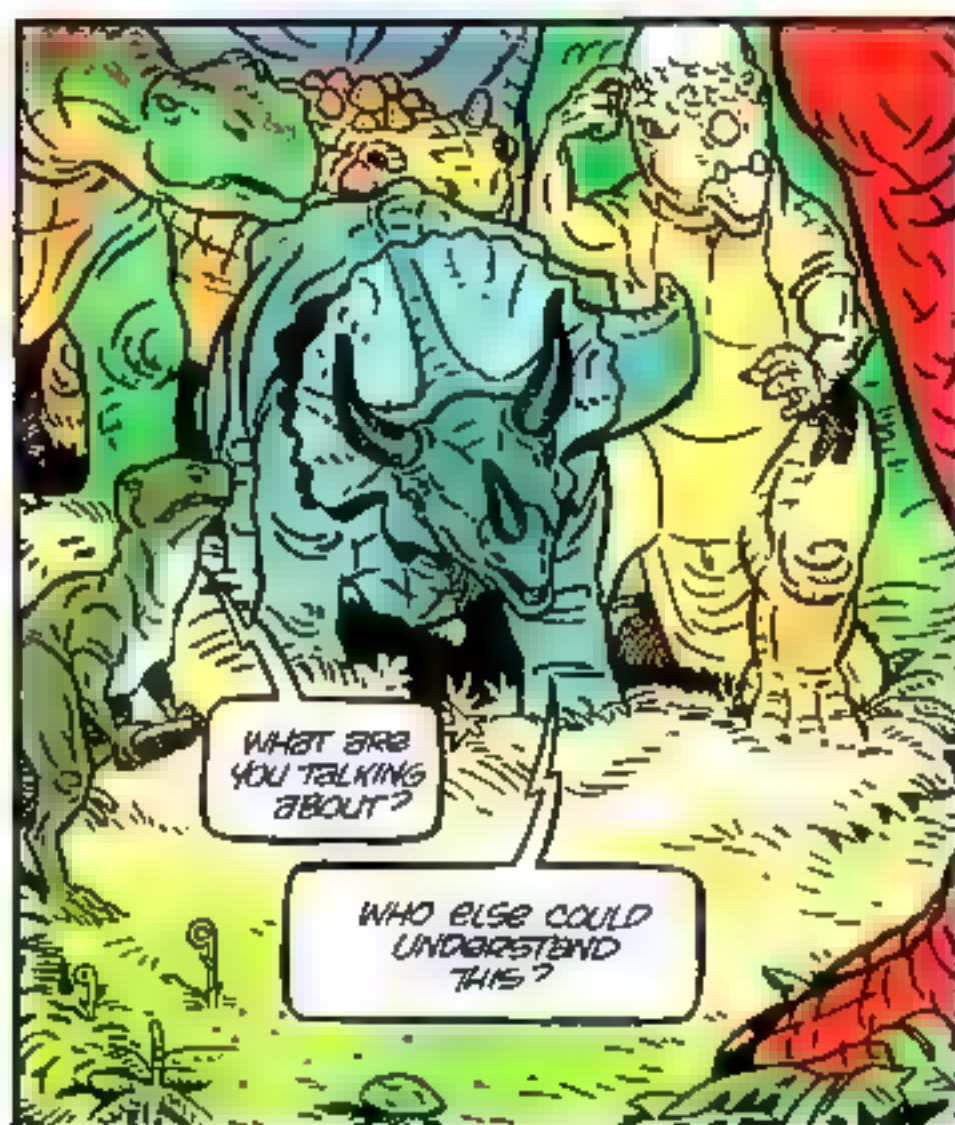
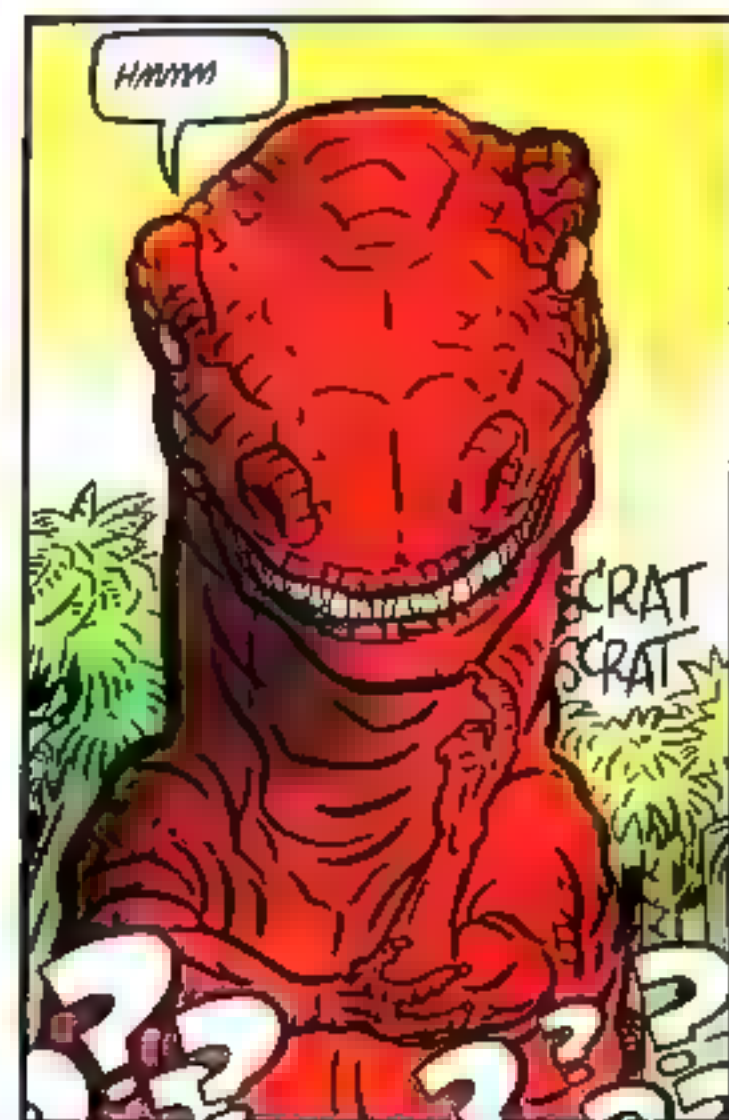
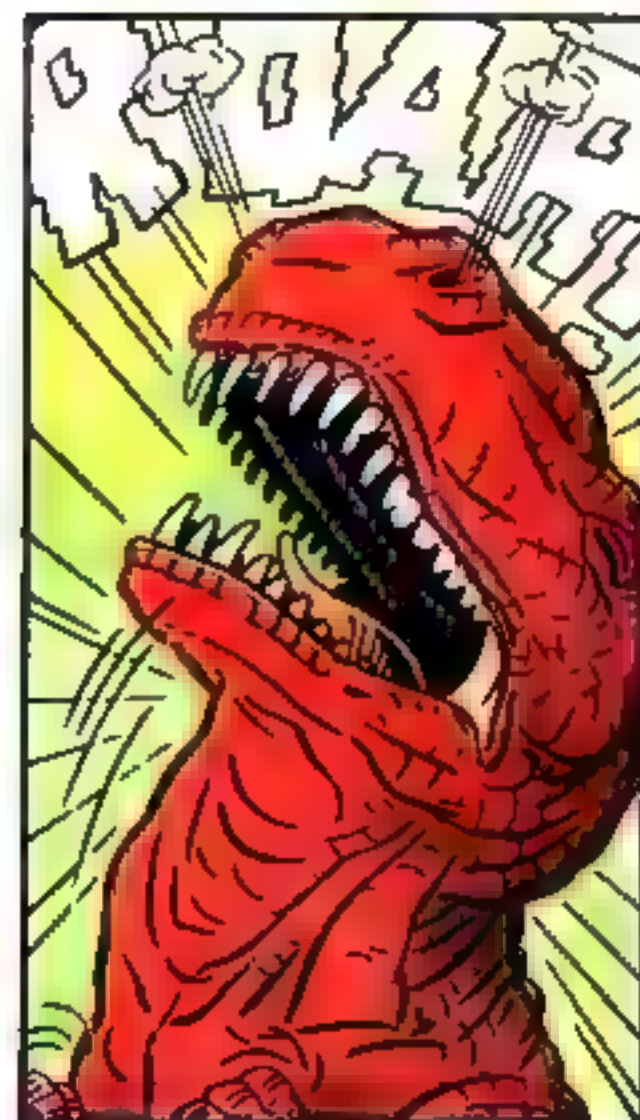
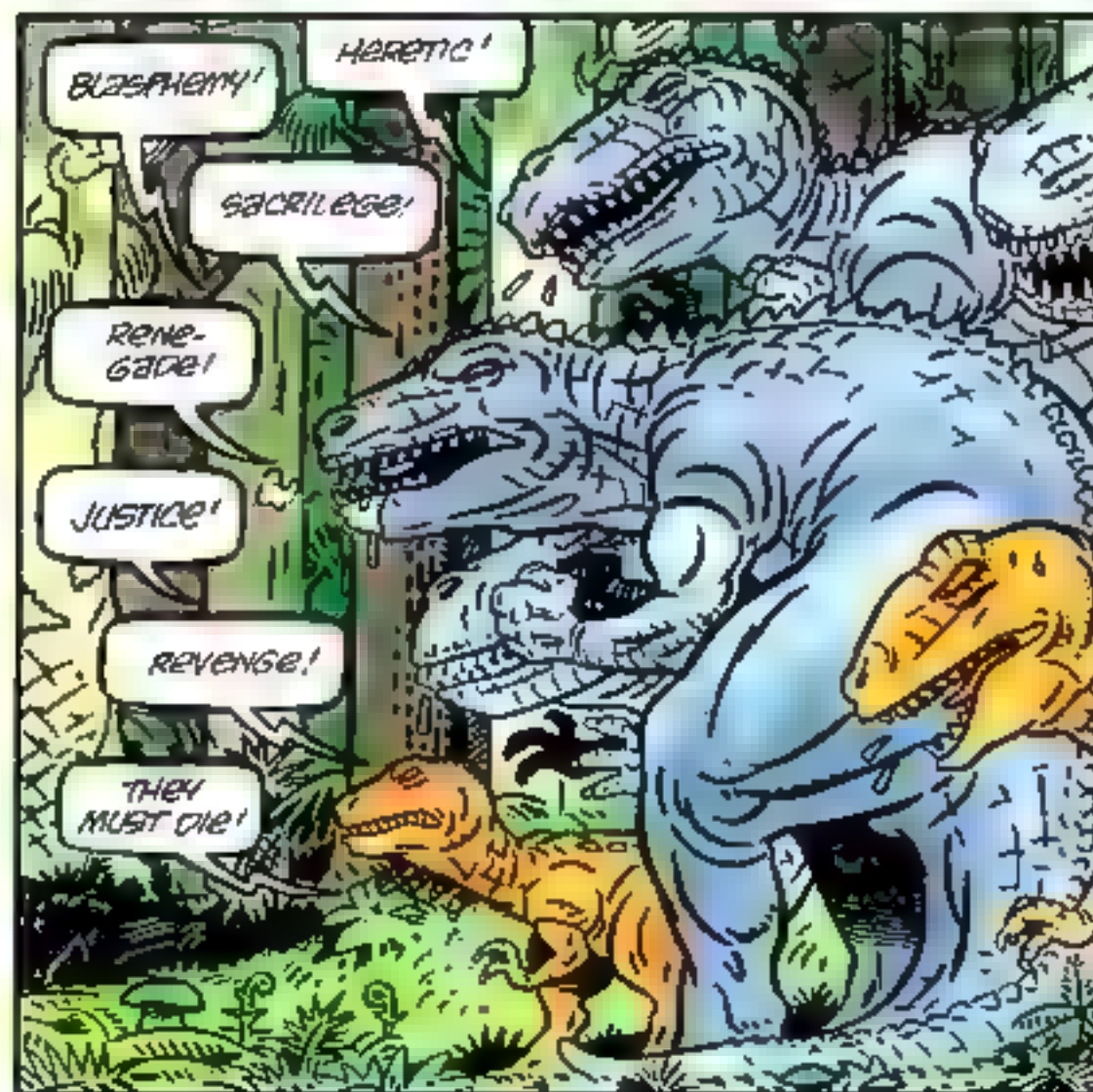
WHICH MEANS THAT MANY
MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO, YOUR
GREAT MOUNTAIN, REX, WAS
COVERED BY WATER!

EVERYTHING
WAS SUB-
MERGED!

AND WE WERE
NOT WHAT WE
ARE NOW!

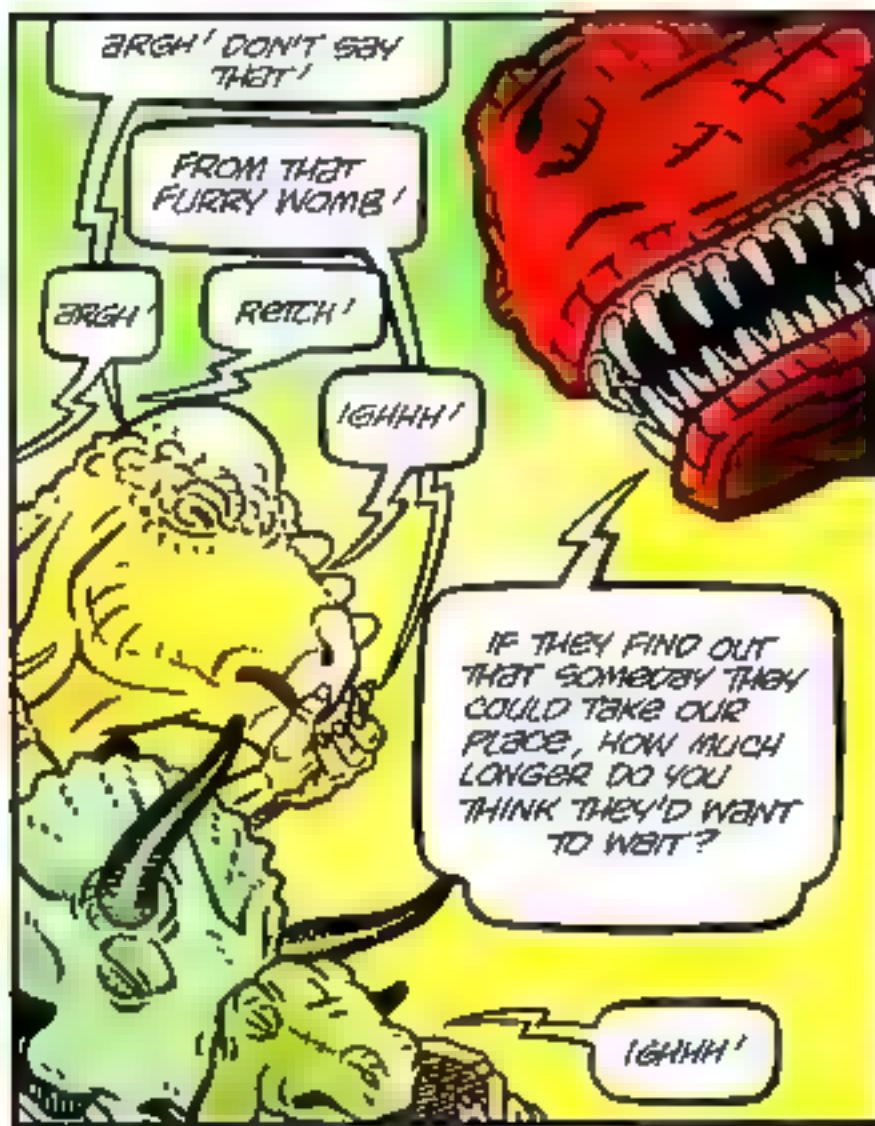
**RRR
RRR RRR**

THAT'S
RIGHT!





THOSE LITTLE PESTS WHO COVER
THEIR YOUNG ONES WITH FUR AND
ARE BORN LIVING FROM THEIR
MOTHERS' WOMB.



ARGH! DON'T SAY
THAT!

FROM THAT
FURRY WOMB!

ARGH!

RETCH!

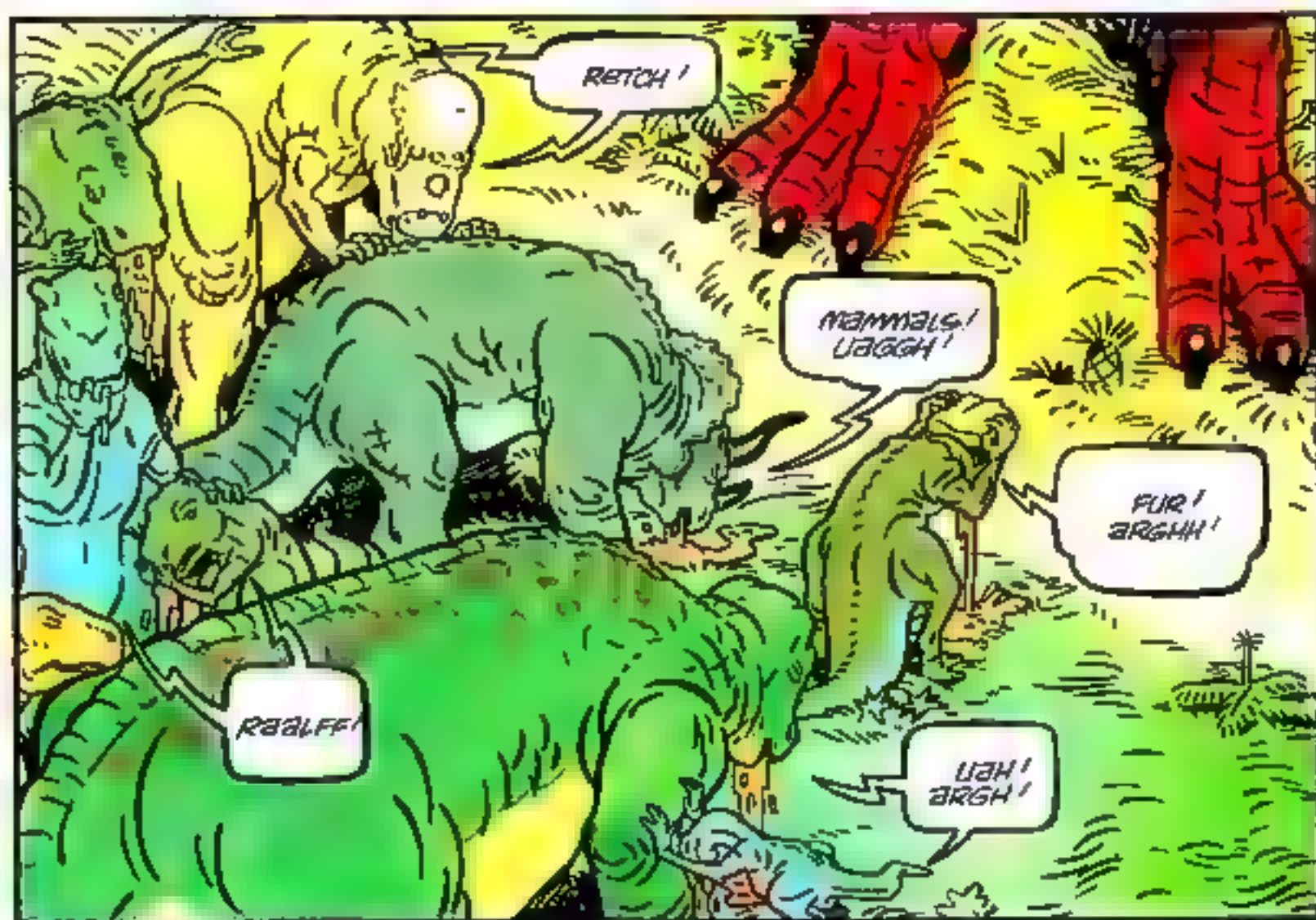
IGHHH!

IF THEY FIND OUT
THAT SOMEBODY THEY
COULD TAKE OUR
PLACE, HOW MUCH
LONGER DO YOU
THINK THEY'D WANT
TO WAIT?

IGHHH!



JUST TRY TO IMAGINE, FOR
A MOMENT, WHAT A WORLD
DOMINATED BY THEM WOULD
BE LIKE!



RETCH!

MAMMALS!
UAGGH!

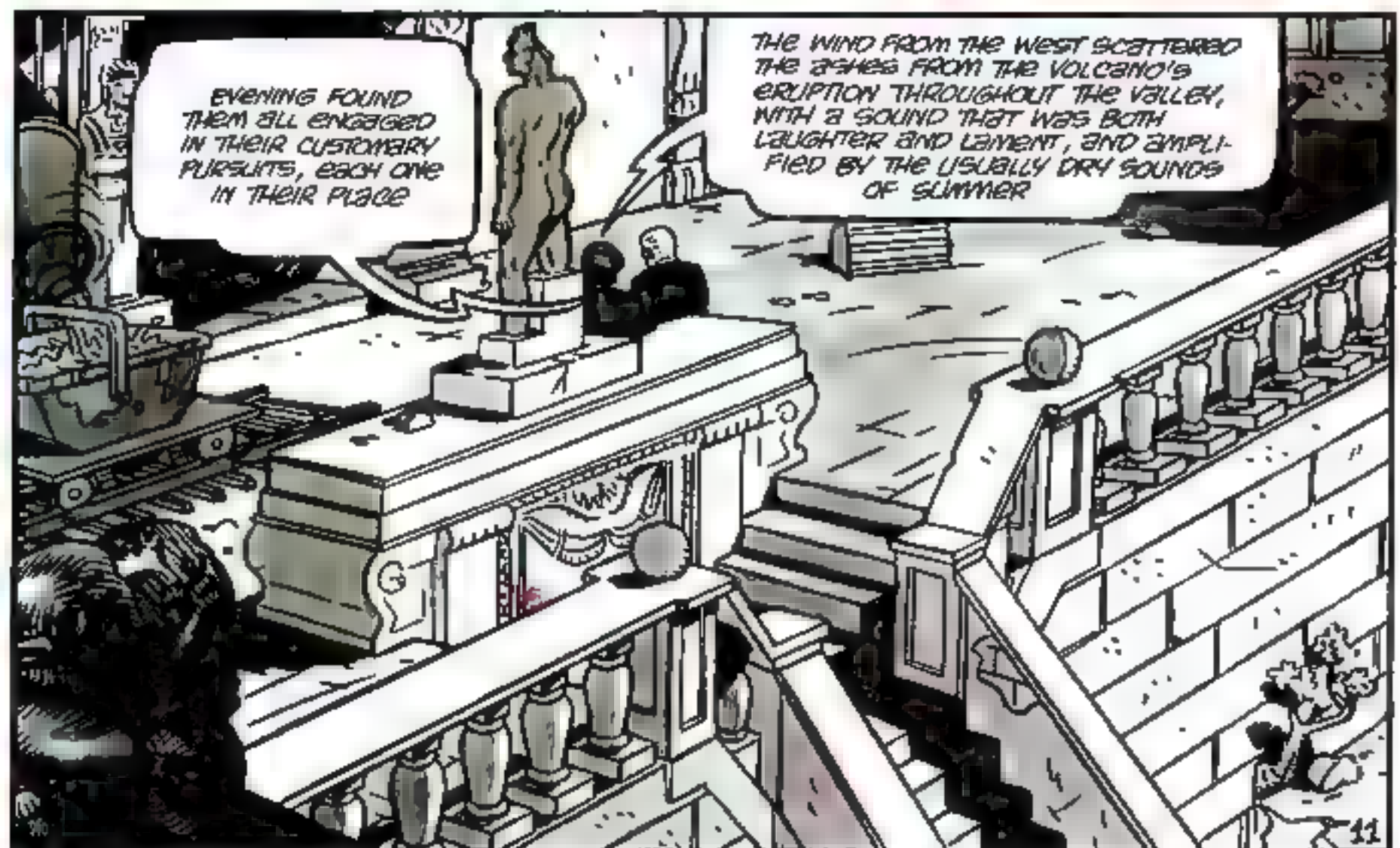
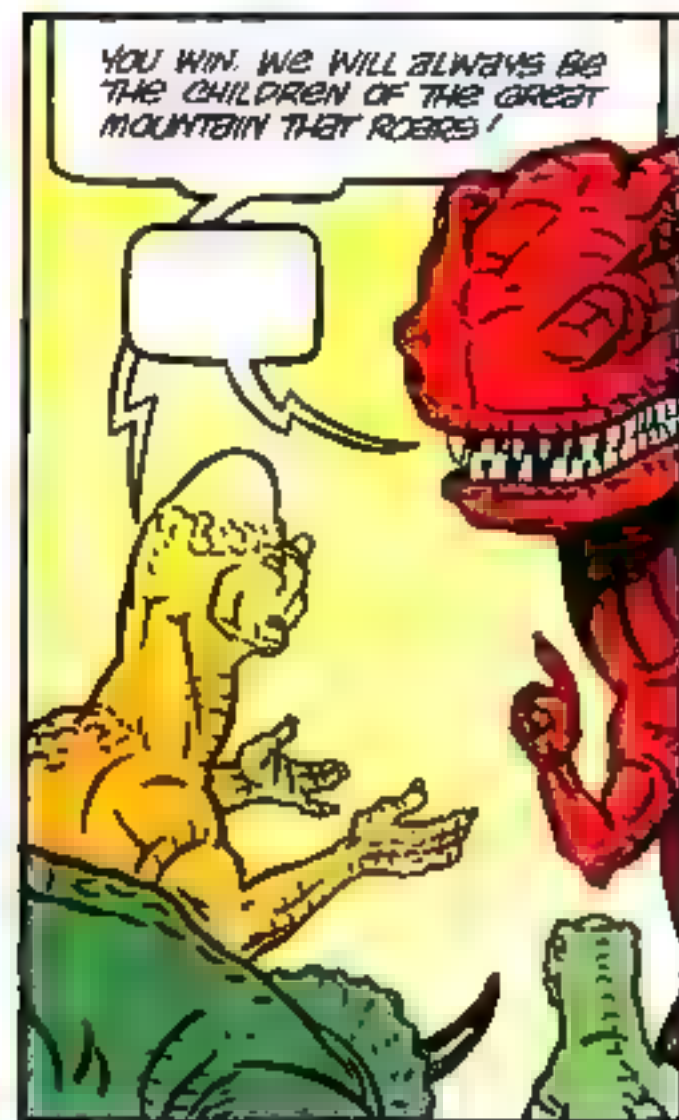
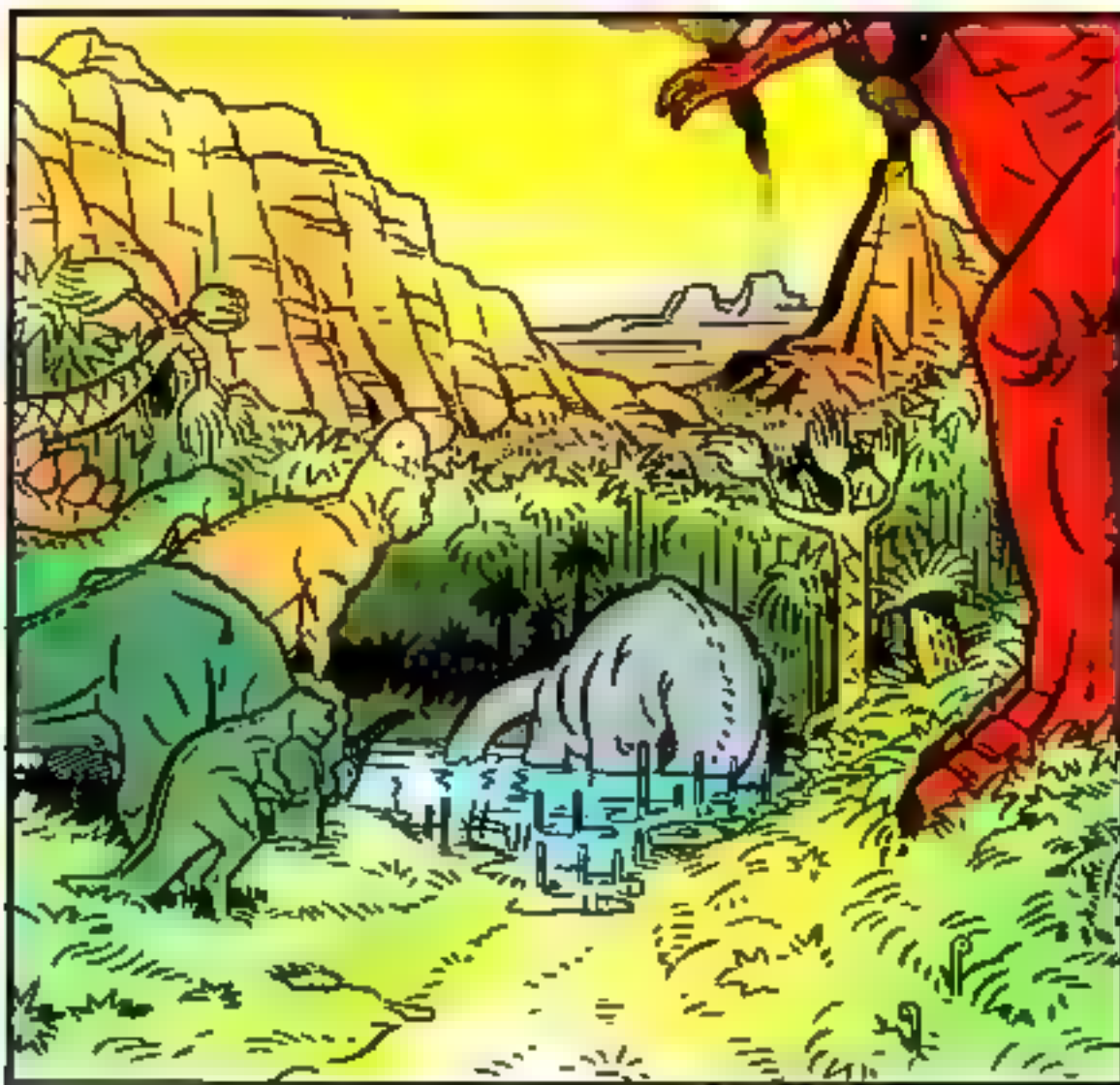
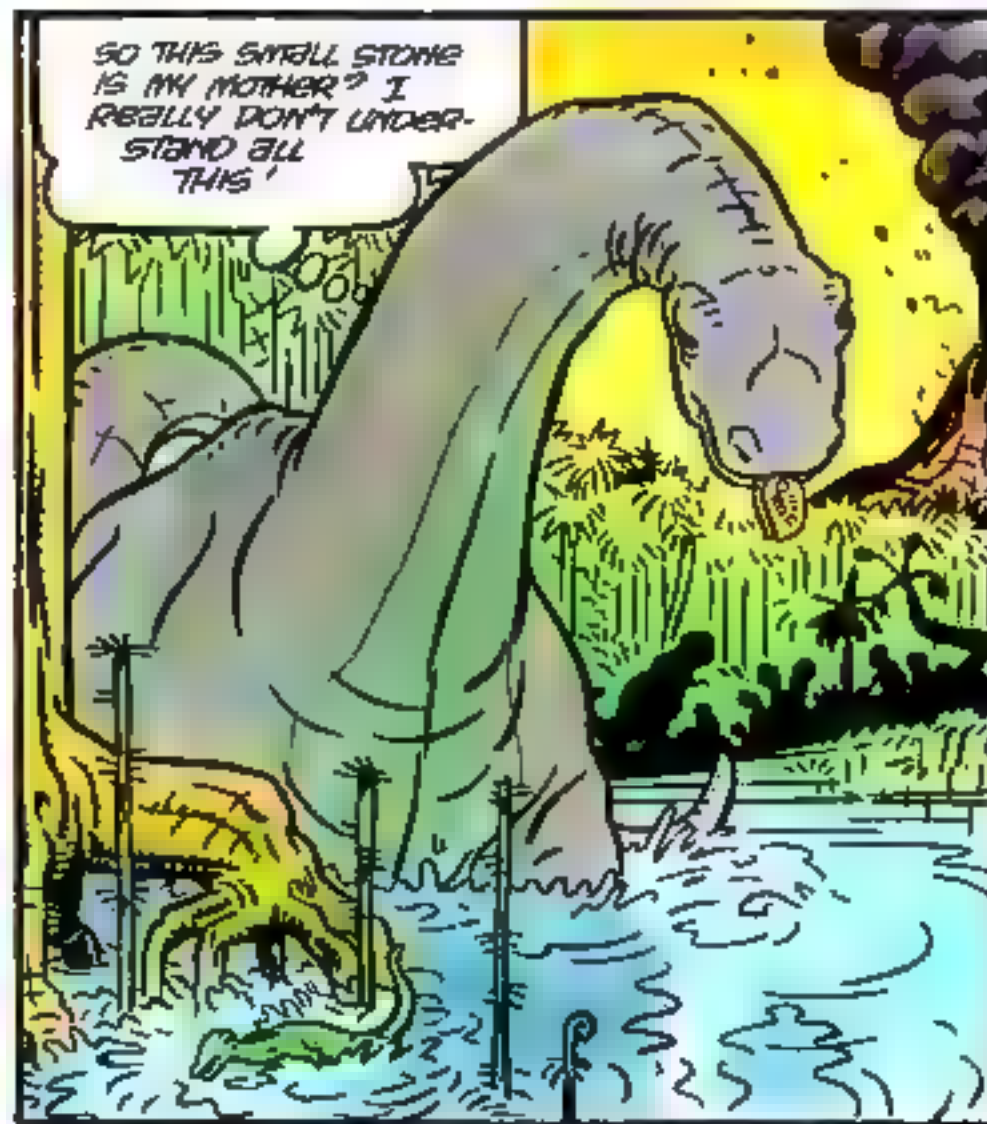
FUR!
ARGHH!

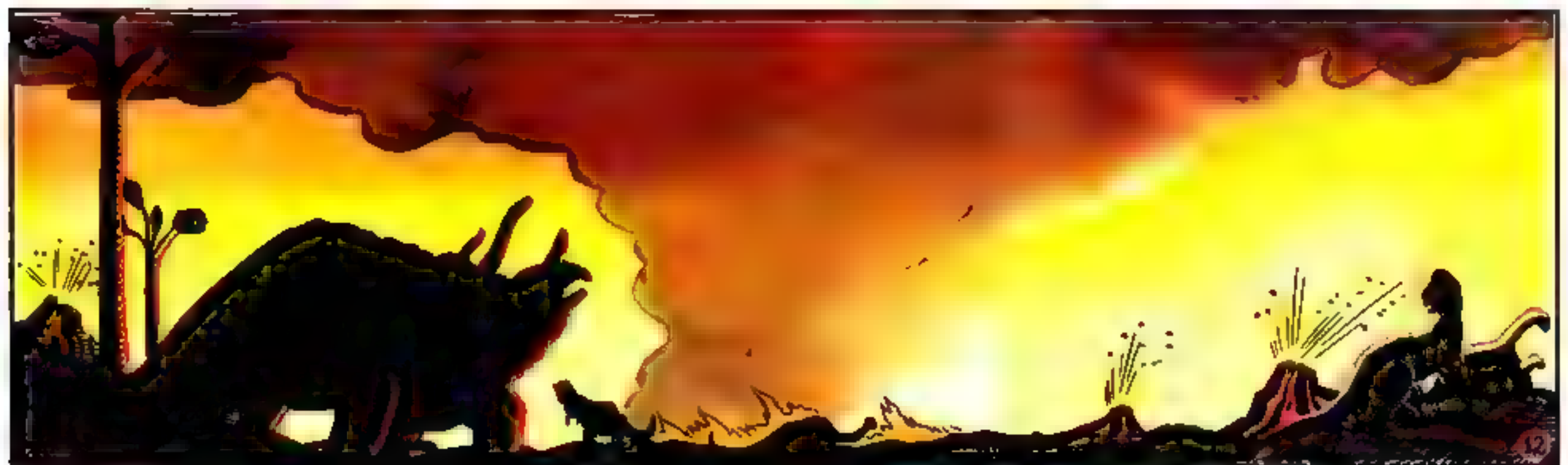
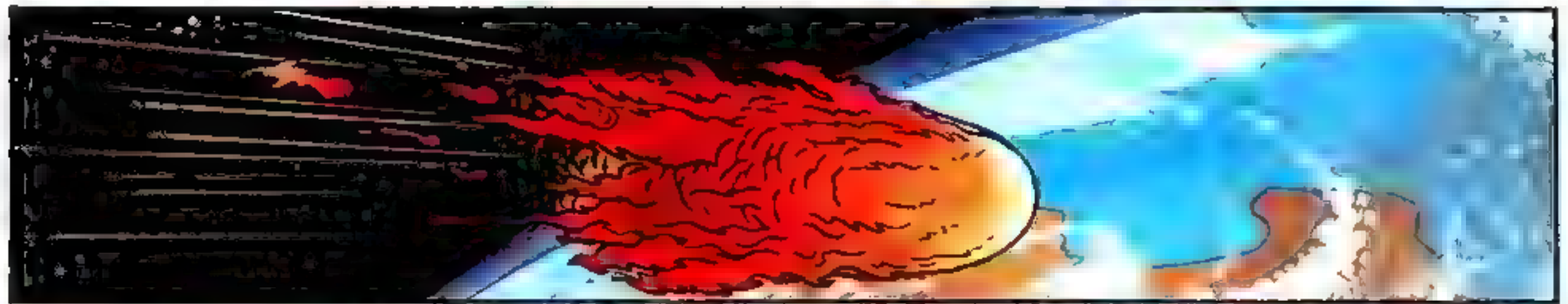
UAGH!
ARGH!

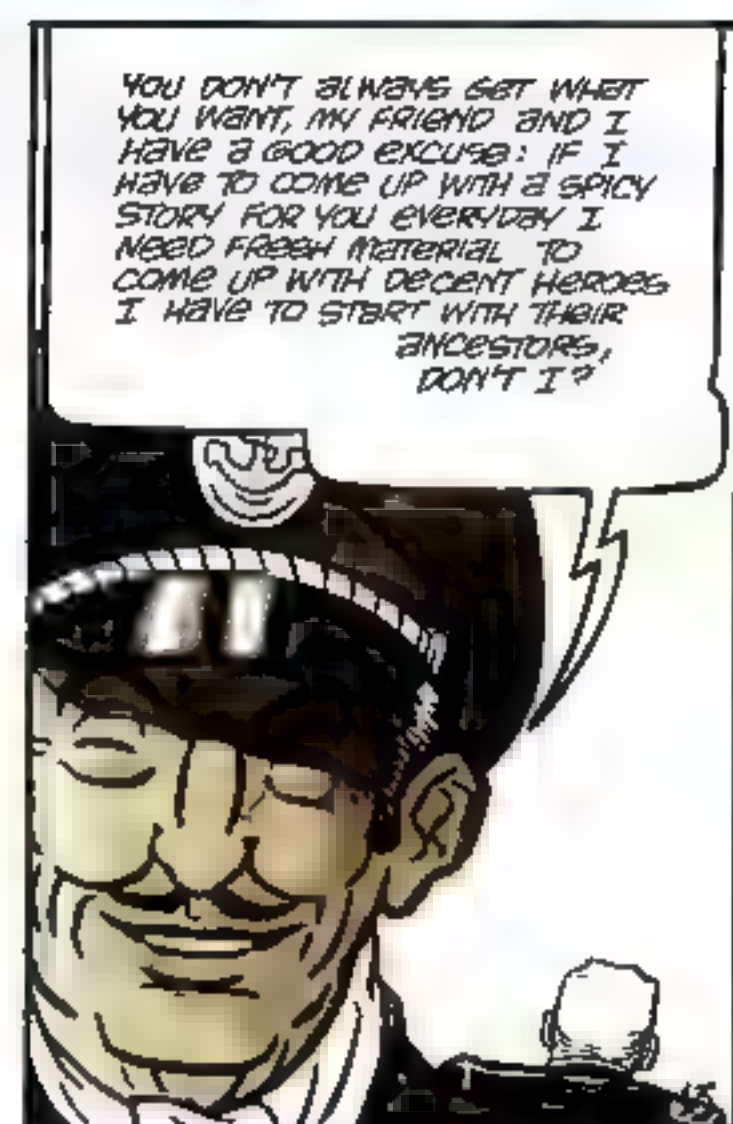
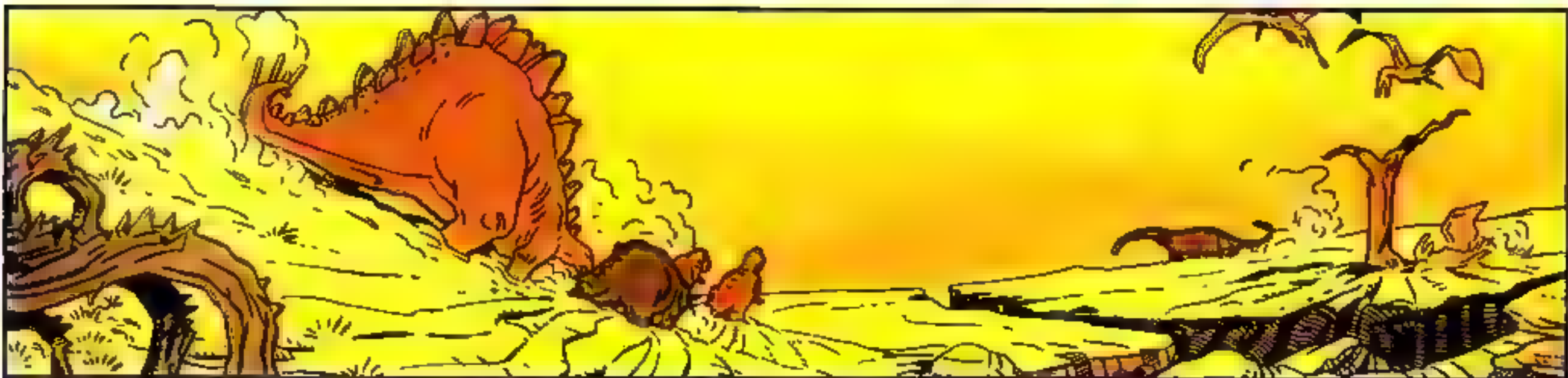
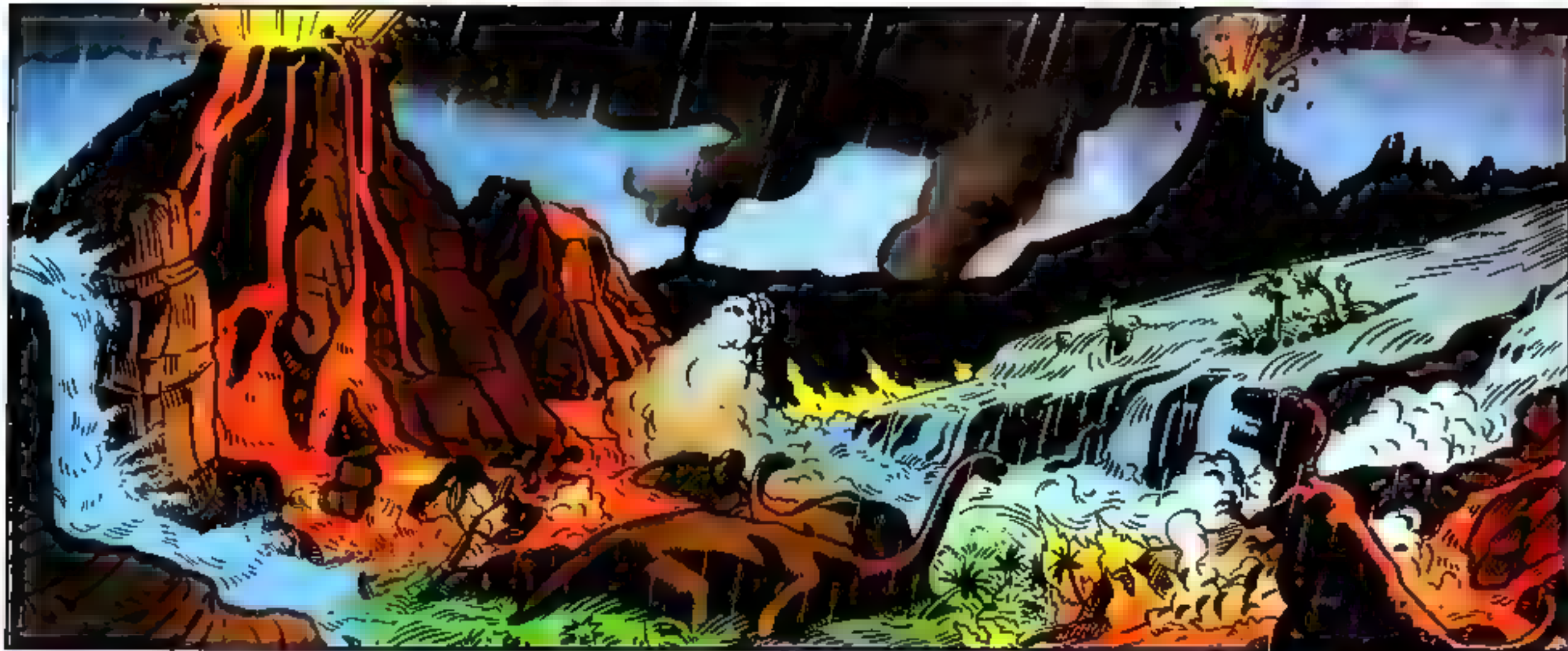
RAALFF!

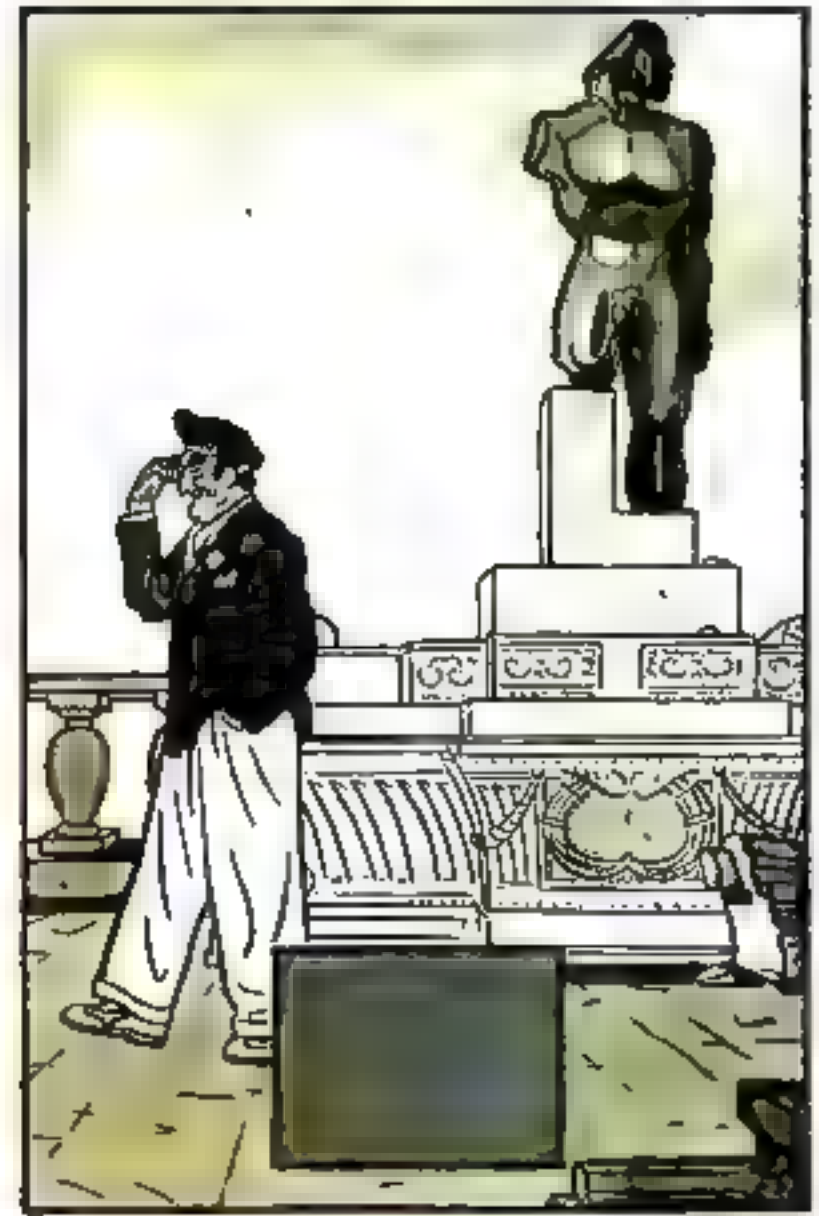
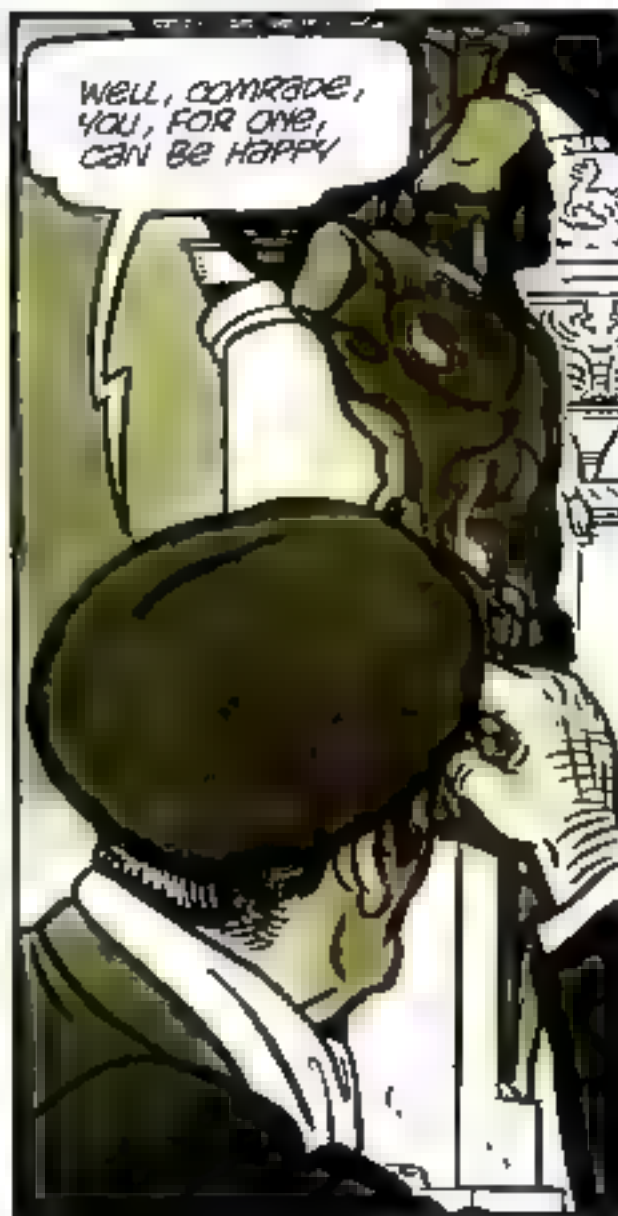
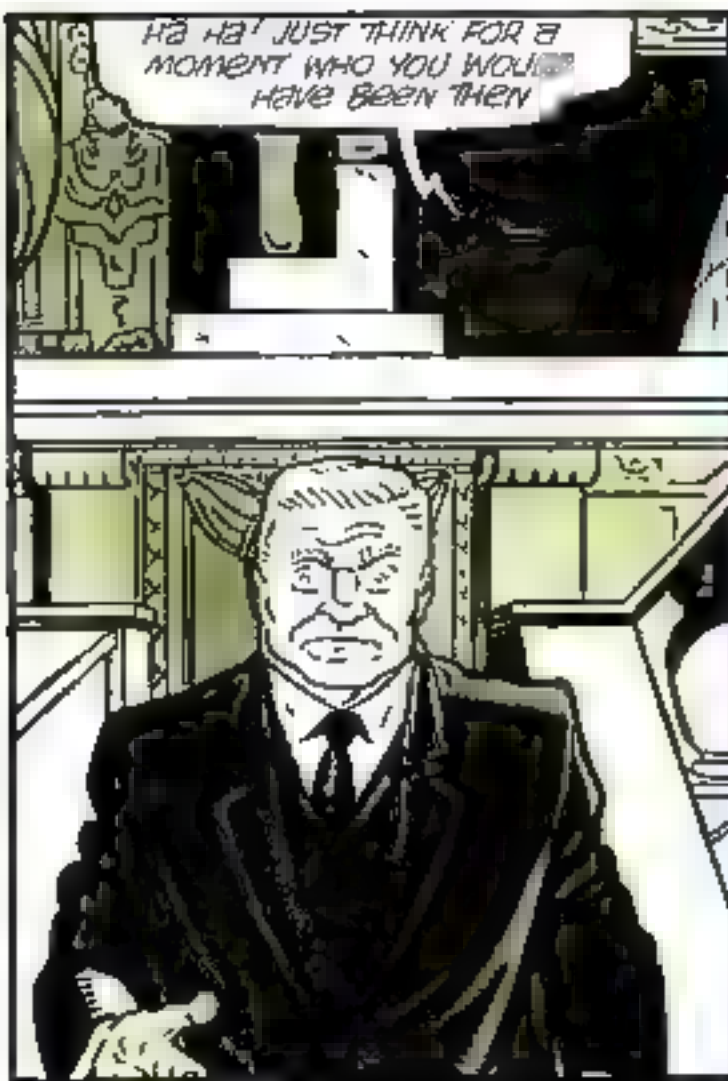


BROWN, TAKE THIS
TRILOBITE AND BURY IT
AT THE BOTTOM OF THE
MARSH, WHERE NO ONE
WILL FIND IT









THIS ONE WAS YOUNG AND GOOD-LOOKING, WHICH WAS NICE JUST AS STUPID, THOUGH, AS THE OTHERS; THE FAT ACCOUNTANTS OR THE BALDING EXECUTIVES JUST AS WILLING TO BE HOOKED LIKE A FAT FISH, LURED AWAY FROM THE BAR TO HIS APARTMENT HERE, AND DUPED INTO DRINKING THE WINE WITH A LITTLE WHITE PILL IN IT..

NOR WOULD HE BE THE LAST THERE WERE LOTS OF FISH IN THE SEA. RICH FISH, GULLIBLE FISH AND I HAD THE BAIT... HAD IT EVEN AS A LITTLE GIRL...



SHRINKING ASSET

HOW MANY SUCKER FISH HAD THERE BEEN? HOW MANY TOWNS? HOW MANY NOISY BARS... EXCLUSIVE CLUBS...



DOZENS? HUNDREDS? I HAD NEVER STOPPED TO COUNT? UNLESS IT WAS TO COUNT THE STACKS OF MONEY. THE PILES OF MONEY I GARNERED OVER THE YEARS, I'D NEVER DONE A DAY OF REAL WORK IN MY LIFE.



WORK IS FOR IDIOTS!

I WAS TOO BUSY BEING ON VACATION TO WORRY ABOUT WORK. CONSTANT VACATION WHETHER IN RIO, OR SAN JUAN OR MONTE CARLO. ALL BOUGHT AND PAID FOR WITH THOSE LITTLE WHITE PILLS.

LIKE THOSE TWO WEEKS I SPENT IN GREECE, DANCING AND DINING AND GAMBLING AND SNORKLING AWAY CAREFREE AFTERNOONS AMONG THE DELICATE CORAL GARDENS WAITING FOR THE NEXT SLICKER. OR THE NEXT TWIST OF FATE.



WHAT'S THAT...?



SOMETHING HALF BURIED IN THE SAND THERE

AS I BRUSHED AWAY THE SWIRLING SAND I COULD IT WAS MUCH MORE THAN THAT.



... LIKE A PIECE OF STATUE OR SOMETHING

ONLY IT WASN'T JUST A PIECE





AN ENTIRE STATUE
BURIED HERE AMIDST
THE CORAL! UHH--
AND STUCK FAST,
TOO!



HAVEN'T THE STRENGTH OR A.R.
TO PULL IT UP MYSELF I NEED
DIVERS, SALVAGE EQUIPMENT,
MONEY... LOTS OF IT!



A THING LIKE THAT COULD BE
WORTH A KING'S RANSOM! I'D
NEVER HAVE TO WORK A SLEAZY
BAR IN MY LIFE!

I NEED A FAT
CAT, A VERY
FAT CAT
SOMEONE TO
FOOT THE
BILL.



NOW WHERE AM I GOING
TO--HEY, A MARINA

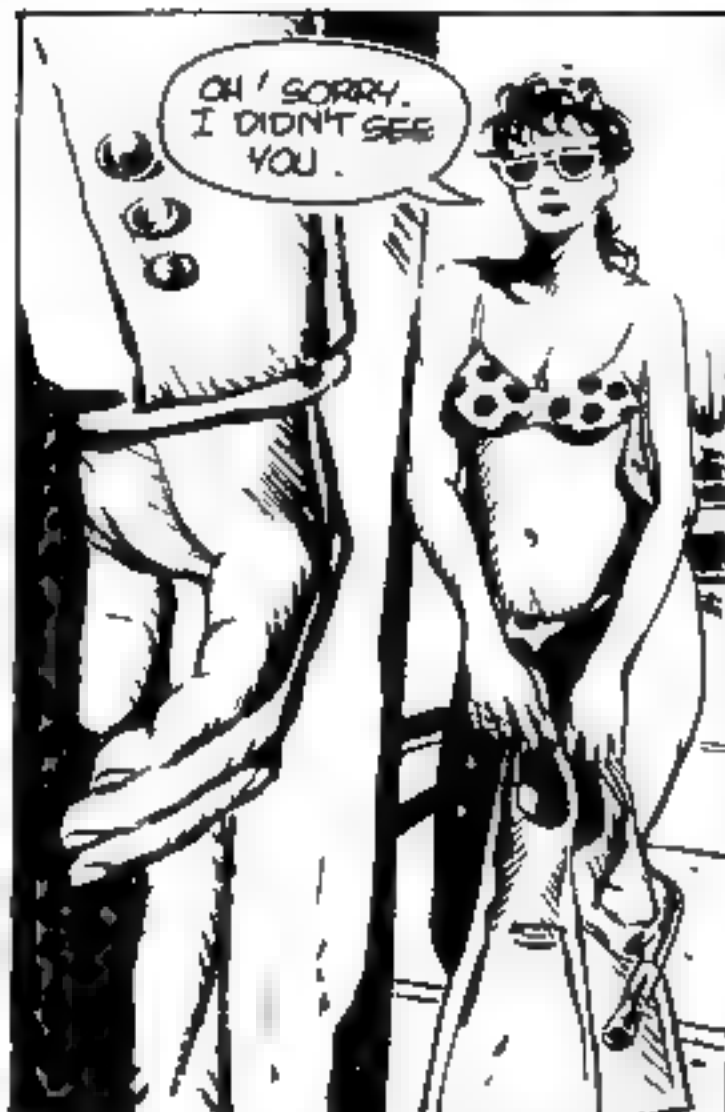
AND A VERY RICH LOOKING
LITTLE MARINA. I'D SURFACED
RIGHT NEXT TO IT I PADDOLED
OVER AND CLIMBED UP ON THE
DOCK THE PLACE REEKED OF
MONEY BUT, STRANGELY,
THERE WASN'T A SOUL IN
SIGHT I FOUND A PAIR OF DIS-
CARDED SLINGGLASSES ON THE
SUN-BAKED WOOD, STOOD
AND PUT THEM ON...



WHERE
IS
EVERY-
BODY--?



THOSE ARE MY
SUNGLASSES.



OH! SORRY.
I DIDN'T SEE
YOU.



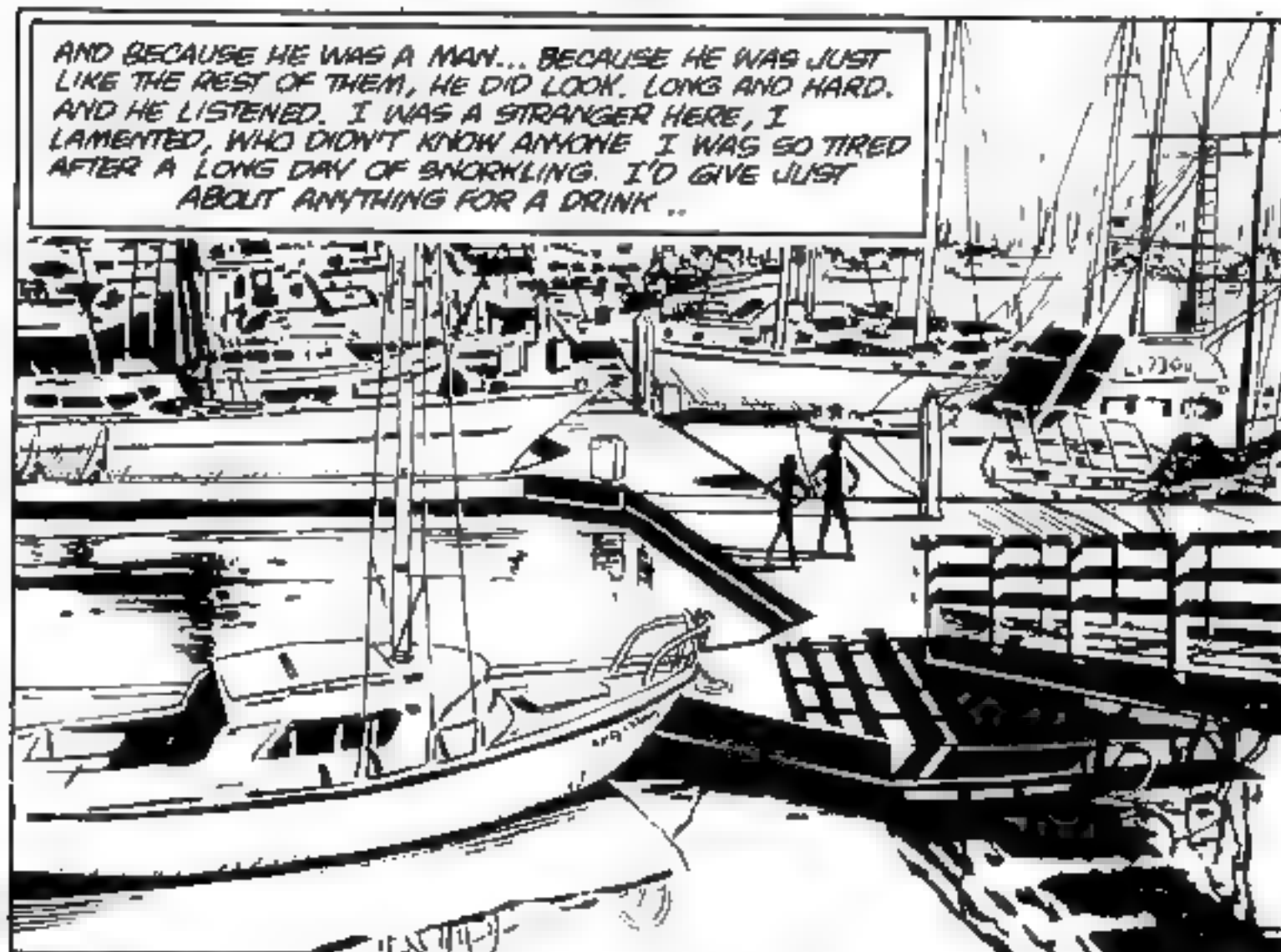
EVERYTHING ABOUT HIM SPOKE
OF MONEY TONS OF MONEY MORE
THAN ENOUGH TO FINANCE A PRI-
VATE DIVE, BUT I HAD TO ACT
FAST-- BEFORE SOMEONE ELSE
FINDS MY BURIED TREASURE...

MY NAME'S
AMANDA...I
WAS JUST
LEAVING..



THIS IS A PRIVATE
MARINA I'M AFRAID
I'LL HAVE TO ASK
YOU TO GO

A TOUGH CUSTOMER BUT I'D HANDLED THE
BEST I TEASED HIM WITH THE GLASSES...
TAKING THEM OFF AND ON, LETTING HIM LOOK
DEEP INTO MY EYES... LETTING HIM LOOK
WHERE EVER HE WANTED, FOR AS LONG AS
HE WANTED...



AND BECAUSE HE WAS A MAN... BECAUSE HE WAS JUST
LIKE THE REST OF THEM, HE DID LOOK LONG AND HARD.
AND HE LISTENED. I WAS A STRANGER HERE, I
LAMENTED, WHO DIDN'T KNOW ANYONE I WAS SO TIRED
AFTER A LONG DAY OF SNORKLING. I'D GIVE JUST
ABOUT ANYTHING FOR A DRINK ..



I Poured it on.
LAUGHING AND
FLIRTING AND
POSING ON THE
SUNLIT DOCK



AND WHEN I WAS THROUGH, HE STOOD THERE FOR A LONG MOMENT AND LOOKED QUIETLY OUT TO SEA. THEN, AT LAST, THE WORDS I'D BEEN WAITING FOR...

WOULD YOU CARE TO SHARE A DRINK ON MY YACHT?

HIS NAME WAS BALASCO. HE OWNED THE BOAT AND THE MARINA THAT WAS THE FIRST GOOD NEWS. THE SECOND WAS THAT HE TOO WAS LONELY. WEREN'T THEY ALL?



HE DIDN'T TALK MUCH, MOSTLY JUST SAT THERE AT THE BABY GRAND AND PLAYED SOMBER MELODIES FOR ME...



...WHILE I ROAMED ABOUT THE COMPARTMENT, ADMIRING THE BEAUTIFUL AQUARIUM WITH ITS TROPICAL WONDERS...



...AND THE LIBRARY OF ART BOOKS LINING HIS SHELVES...



...ESPECIALLY ONE BOOK IN PARTICULAR

THAT'S IT! THAT'S THE STATUE!



...AND ACCORDING TO THIS IT'S PRICELESS!



NOW THERE COULD BE NO DOUBT. I HAD TO GET THAT SALVAGE MONEY!

AS I REPLACED THE BOOK CAREFULLY...



MERELY A JAVARO SHRUNKEN HEAD... NO NEED FOR ALARM



I LEARNED A GREAT DEAL FROM THE JAVARO'S IN MY TRAVELS. ANCIENT SECRETS YOU CAN'T HAVE DREAMED OF. SECRETS THAT HAVE KEPT AN OLD MAN COMPANY OVER THE ENDLESS YEARS.



BUT I BORE YOU. I WONDER IF YOU'D HONOR A FOOLISH OLD CURMUDGEON WITH YOUR PRESENCE AT DINNER TONIGHT? I FIX A VERY COMMENDABLE HERRING!



OKAY, THE HOOK WAS SET. I SWAM BACK TO MY HOTEL TO GET READY, PASSING MY PRIZE ON THE WAY.

SCOOPING SAND ON TOP OF THE HEAVY STATUE, PUSHING IT DOWN AS BEST I COULD OUT OF SIGHT.



GOT TO KEEP YOU HIDDEN UNTIL THE TIME IS RIGHT!

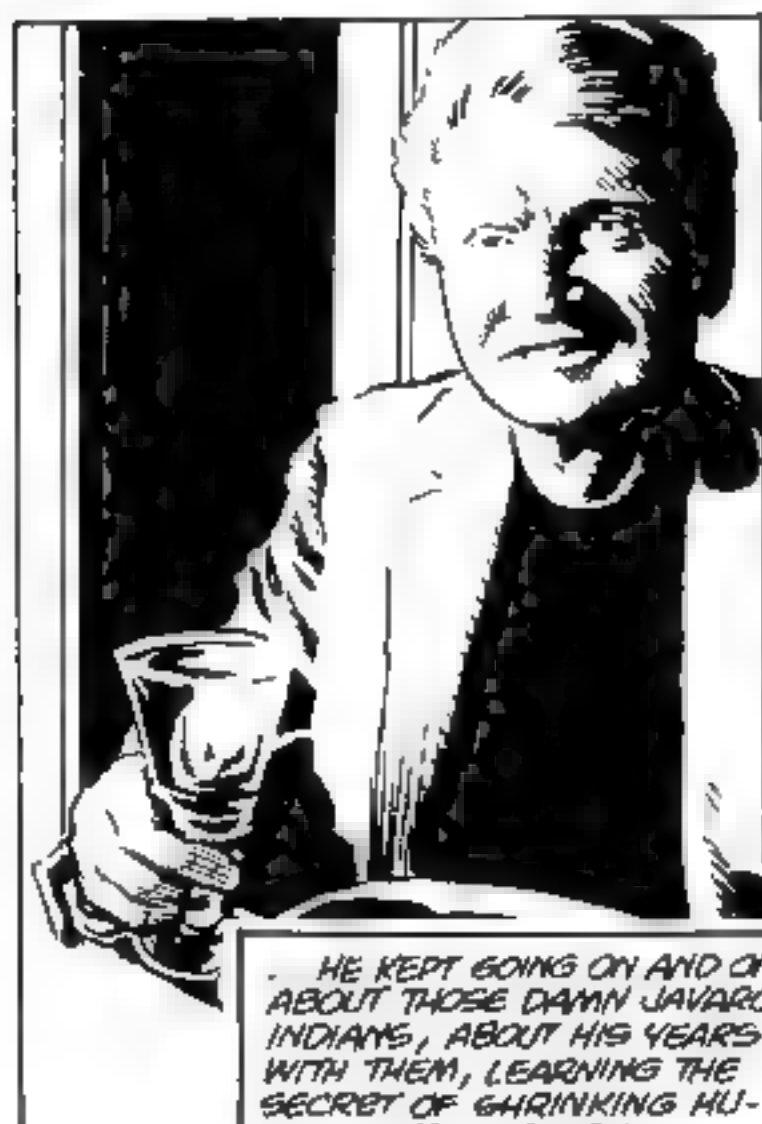


THEN I WENT TO MY ROOM AND MADE MYSELF GORGEOUS.

MY MIND WAS RACING AS I HEADED TOWARD BELASCO'S YACHT NO LITTLE WHITE PILLS TONIGHT I HAD TO MAKE HIM FALL IN LOVE WITH ME... HAD TO GAIN HIS COMPLETE CONFIDENCE. THE WHITE PILLS WOULD COME LATER, ONCE THE STATUE WAS HAULED UP AND SAFE..



BELASCO WAS THE PERFECT HOST AT DINNER THE WINE WAS SWEET AND WARM. THE ONLY PROBLEM WAS, I COULDN'T SEEM TO STIR THE CONVERSATION AWAY FROM HIS BORING WORLD TRAVELS..



HE KEPT GOING ON AND ON ABOUT THOSE DAMN JAVARO INDIANS, ABOUT HIS YEARS WITH THEM, LEARNING THE SECRET OF SHRINKING HUMAN FLESH...



I LISTENED POLITELY, BUT THE LONGER HE DROINED ON, THE MORE UNREAL THE EVENING BECAME.



WHAT IN THE WORLD WAS HE YAPPING ABOUT-- SOMETHING TO DO WITH HIS SECRET PRIZE THE ROOM BEGAN TO SPIN, HIS FACE TO MELT.



I THINK YOU'RE A YOUNG LADY I CAN TRUST! WOULD YOU CARE TO SEE THEM? MY GREAT PRIZE! MY SECRET COLLECTION? HEH-HEH!



HE OPENED THE CABINET DOOR AGAINST THE BULKHEAD.





AN ETERNITY LATER, I AWOKE IN BLACKNESS TO THE SOUNDS OF WATER LAPPING AGAINST THE DOCK OUTSIDE. THAT STUPID WINE OF HIS... I MUST HAVE EXCUSED MYSELF, STUMBLED OUT HERE AND PASSED OUT...



BUT A GNAWING DREAD PLUCKED AT ME. SOMETHING WAS WRONG AND THEN I KNEW...



I THREW MY LEGS OVER THE EDGE INTO THE WARM WATER AND TORE OFF MY BLOUSE. I HAD TO BE SURE! IT WAS DARK, BUT THE STATUE WAS ONLY A FEW FEET DOWN, JUST BELOW ME



BELASCO WAS TRYING TO GET RID OF ME! HE HAD ALREADY DIG- COVERED THE TREASURE!

I THREADED MY WAY DOWN INTO THE GLOOM... IT HAD TO BE THERE, IT JUST HAD TO BE!



A DARK SHAPE PASSED OVER ME. A SHARK? NO TIME TO WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW, I HAD TO FIND THAT STATUE!

BUT THE SAND BENEATH ME WAS EMPTY! BELASCO HAD GOTTEN THERE FIRST! I STARTED UP AGAIN WHEN THE BLINDING LIGHT SEARED MY EYES...

... AND BELASCO'S LEERING FACE PEERED GREEDILY AT ME FROM BEHIND THE GLASS OF THE BIG AQUARIUM! I HADN'T LEFT THE YACHT AT ALL! THE WINE THAT HORRIBLE WARM WINE HE'D FED ME ALL EVENINGS...

BELASCO HAD HIS TREASURE ALL RIGHT... ONE MORE TO ADD TO HIS GRISLY COLLECTION ...ME!



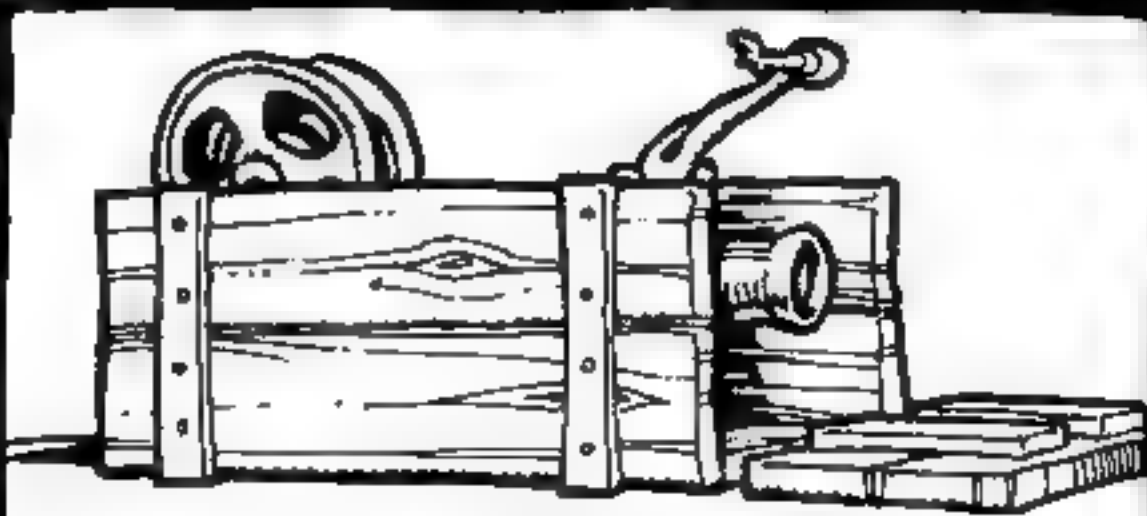
MR. NICKELODEON

RICK GEARY
© 91

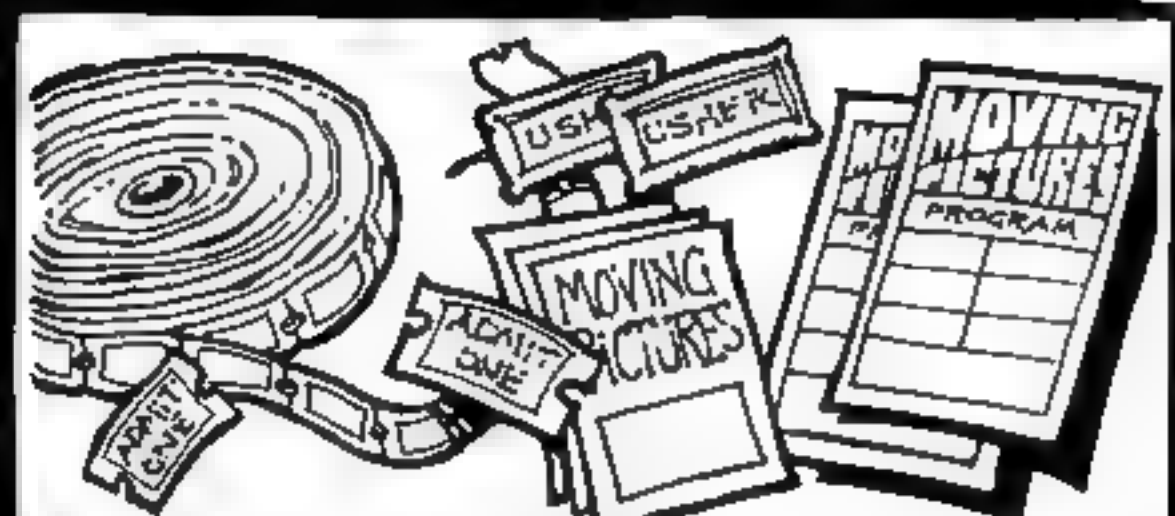


SAW MY FIRST MOVING PICTURE AS A CHILD. A TRAVELLING SHOWMAN PRESENTED ONE IN OUR TOWN SQUARE, ON A BEDSHEET STRETCHED BETWEEN TWO TREES.

I WAS CAPTIVATED FOR LIFE.



WHEN I GOT OLDER, I USED MY SAVINGS TO PURCHASE AN OPTIGRAPH: THE MOVING PICTURE MACHINE!



IT CAME WITH A SUPPLY OF ADMISSION TICKETS, HANDBILLS & POSTERS, BADGES FOR TICKET-TAKERS AND USHERS.



I LEASED AN EMPTY STOREFRONT ON LAUREL STREET...

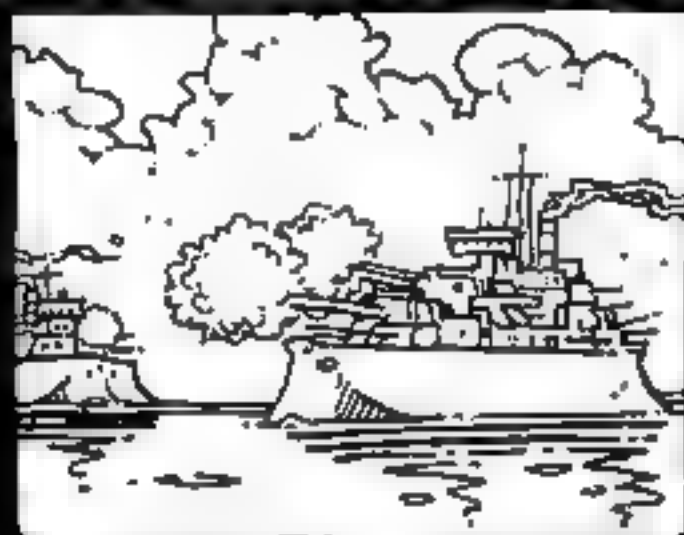


AND RENTED 200 CHAIRS FROM THE FUNERAL HOME NEXT DOOR.

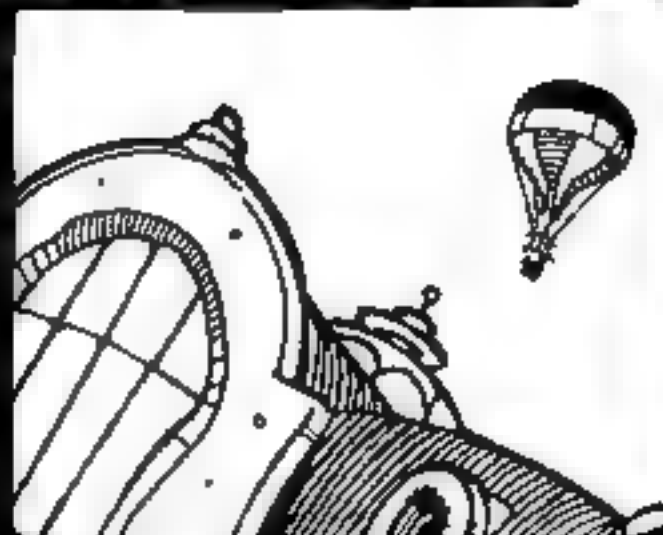
PATRONS FLOCKED TO MY "NICKEL-ODEON"
FROM THE FIRST NITE.



THEY MARVELLED AT THE SIMPLEST OF SCENES:



"DEWEY'S VICTORY
AT MANILA"



"VIEWS OF THE
PARIS EXPOSITION"



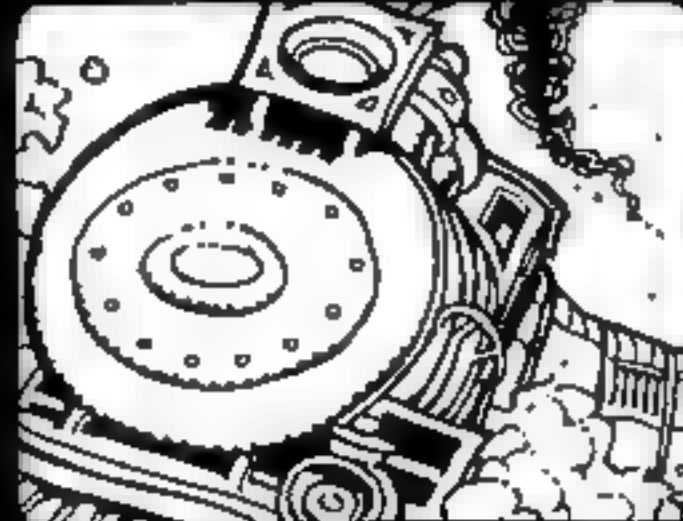
"TILLIE THE
MAID"



"THE OLD SOLDIER'S
HOLIDAY"

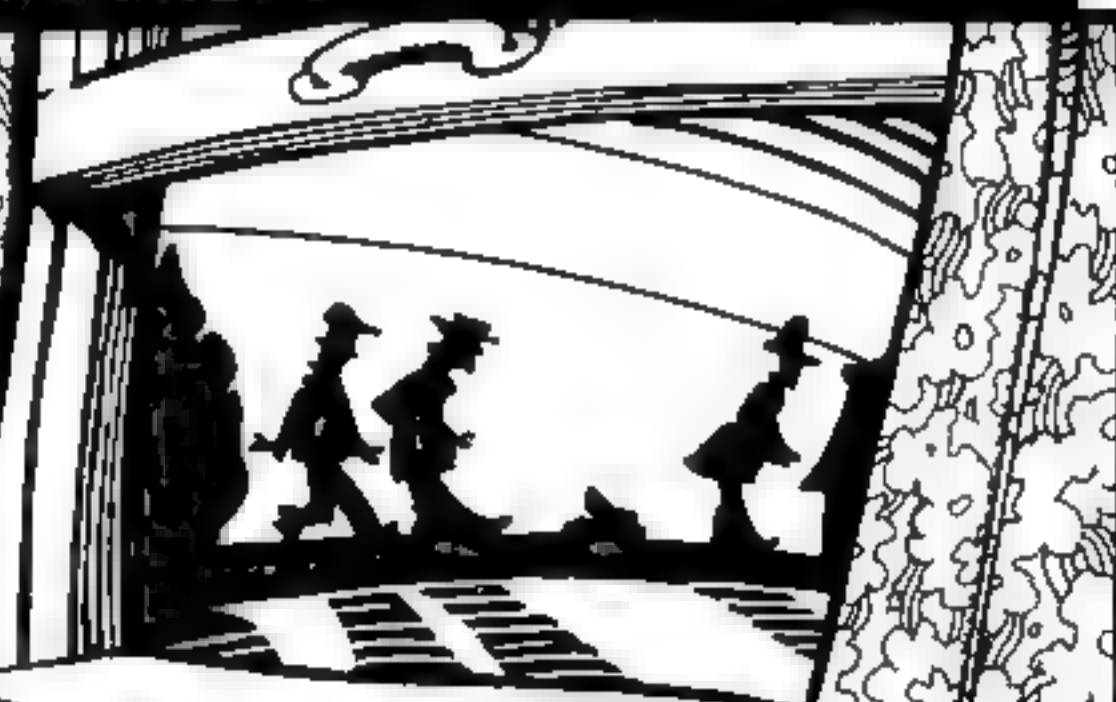


"SCENES OF SOUTH
AFRICA"



"THE ARRIVAL OF
A TRAIN"

RESIDENTS OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD DID
NOT CARE FOR MY ESTABLISHMENT...



THEY FELT IT ATTRACTED HUMANITY OF
A LOW AND DEGRADED SORT.

IN 1905, I FOUND A LARGER RETAIL SPACE ON A BUSY DOWNTOWN BOULEVARD. I ADDED AN ARCHWAY, A TICKET BOOTH — AND OVER FIVE HUNDRED ELECTRIC LIGHTS!

SHOW

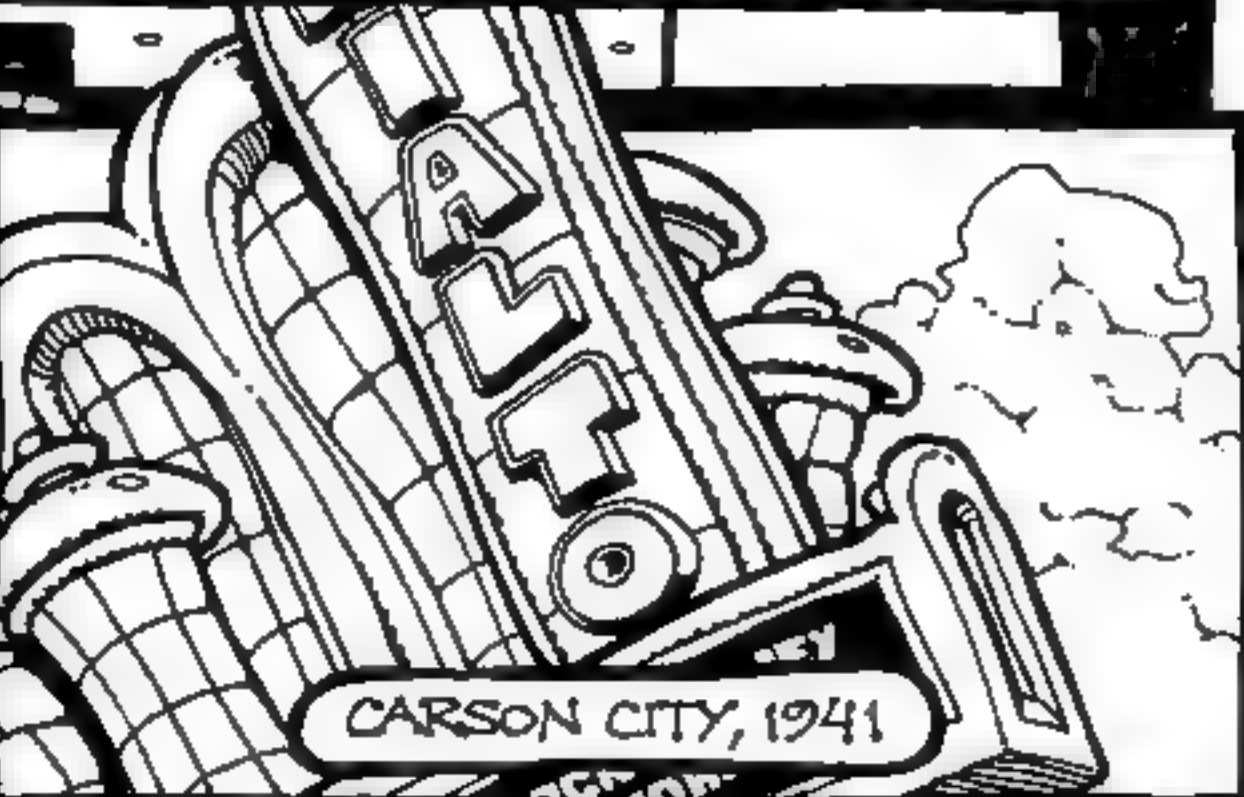
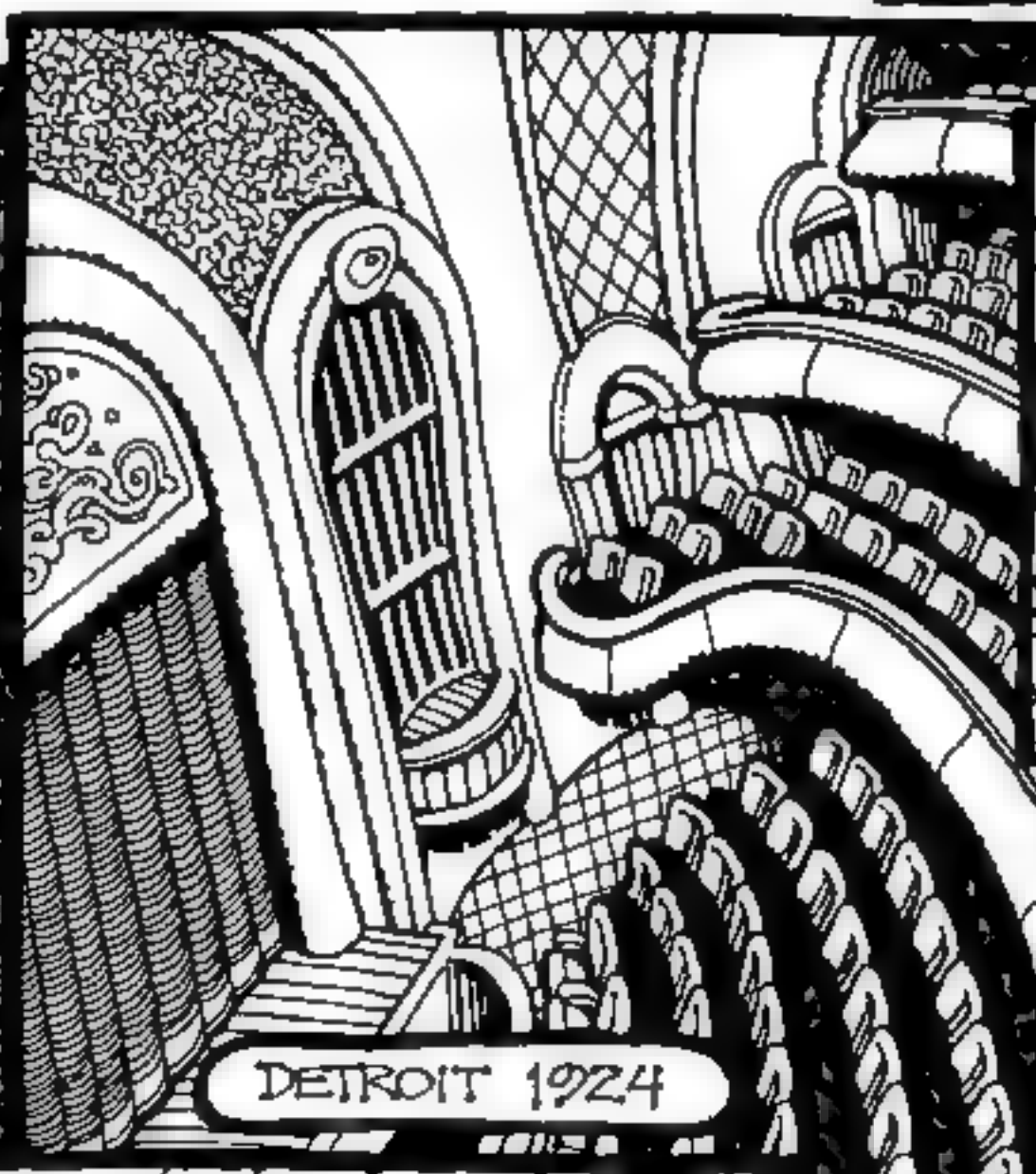
I PROVIDED THE PROJECTIONIST WITH AN ESCAPE DOOR — IN CASE OF FIRE.

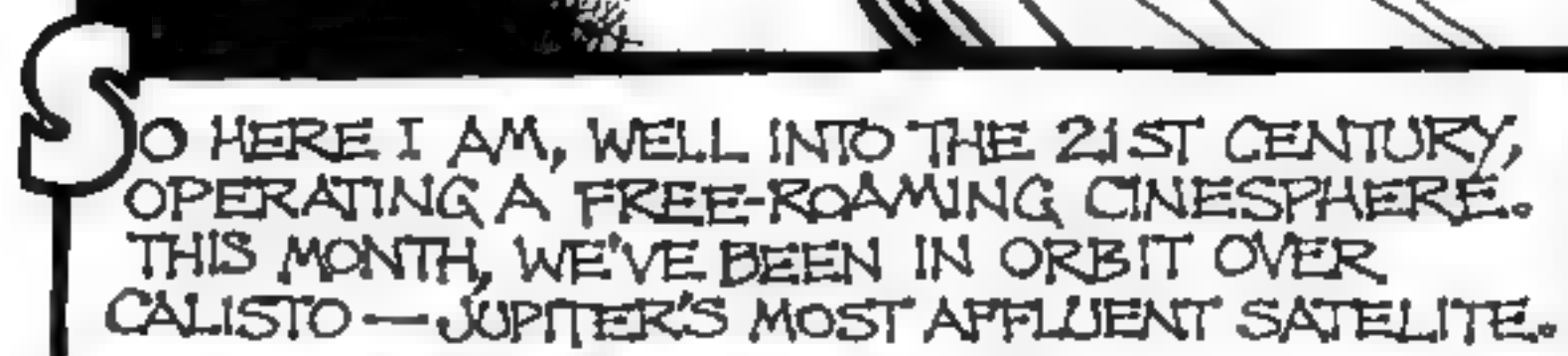
I NOTICED HOW FOLKS CROWDED HEEDLESSLY INTO THE PICTURE SHOW TO ENGAGE IN A DEEP COMMUNITY RITUAL...

TO BE TRANSPORTED BY A COMMON IMAGERY!

CARED NOT HOW PICTURES WERE MADE:
MY ONLY DESIRE WAS TO EXHIBIT!

OVER THE YEARS, I RAN MANY HOUSES . . .





SO HERE I AM, WELL INTO THE 21ST CENTURY,
OPERATING A FREE-ROAMING CINESPHERE.
THIS MONTH, WE'VE BEEN IN ORBIT OVER
CALISTO — JUPITER'S MOST AFFLUENT SATELITE.

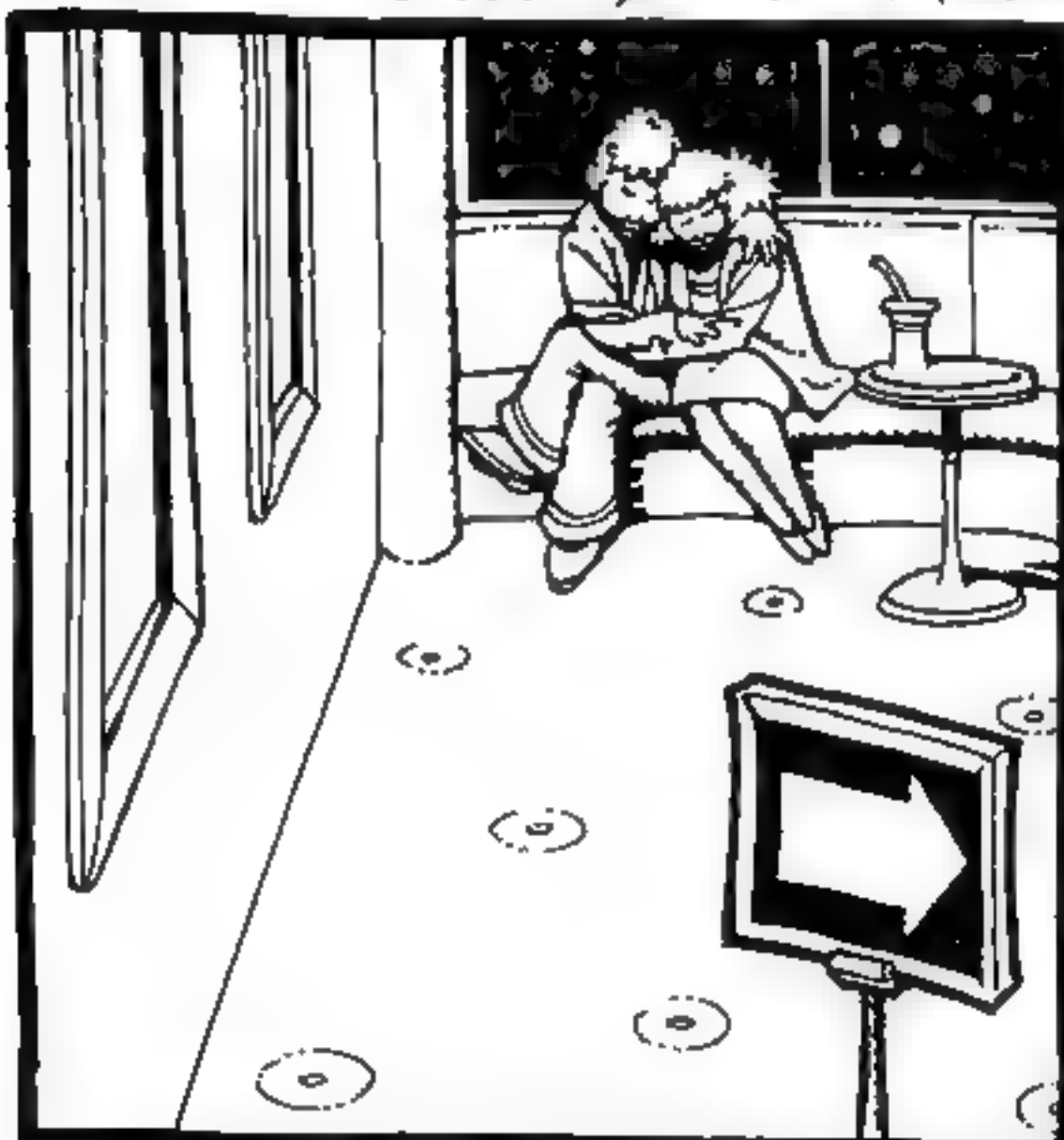
WE'RE A SMALL PLANET OF CINEMA!



THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF CALISTO HAVE MUCH LEISURE TIME! EACH NITE THEY DON THEIR ASCENSION-PACS AND COME UP IN GREAT NUMBERS.



AT THE 'SPHERE, ONE CAN EXPERIENCE A GREAT MANY PROFOUND AND MOVING STORIES, AS IF THEY WERE ACTUALLY HAPPENING!



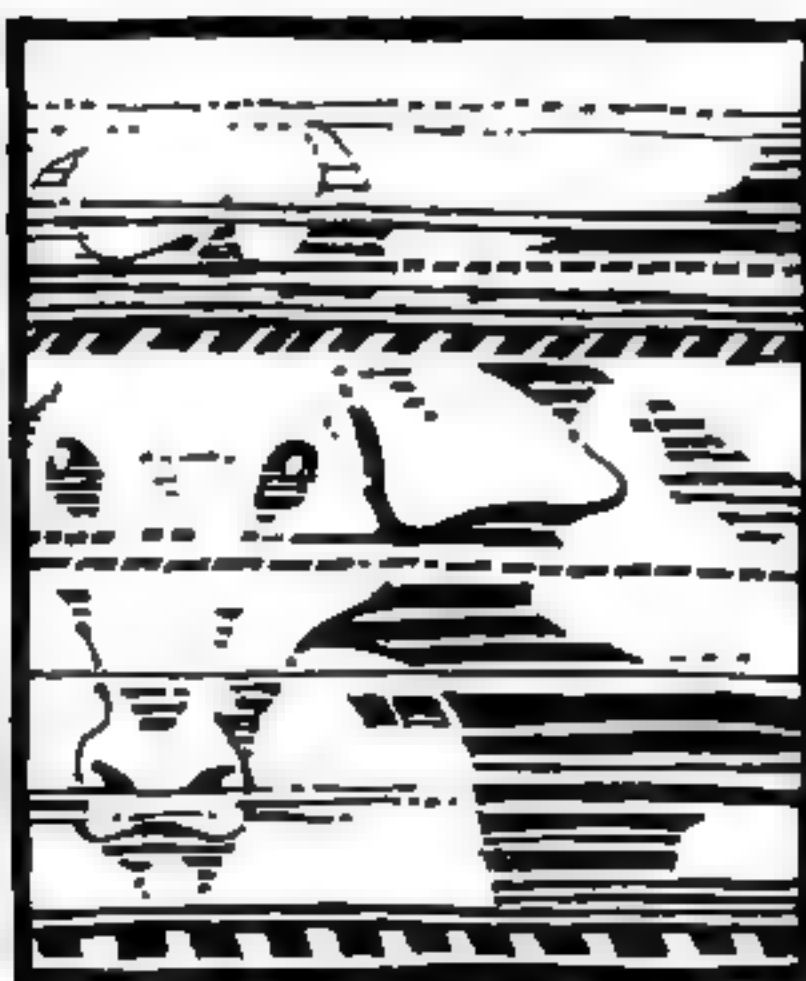
WE BECAME A MAGNET FOR THE ENTIRE TEENAGE GENERATION: WHAT WERE THEY SEARCHING FOR?



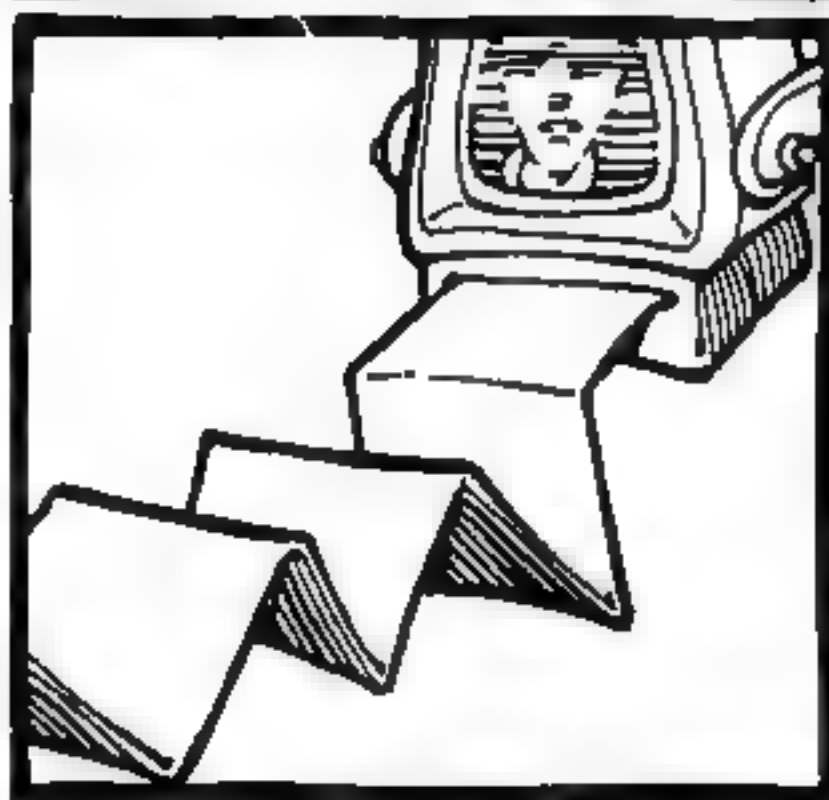
I MUST SAY THE KIDS LOVE ME. THEY CALL ME "MR. NICKELODEON."



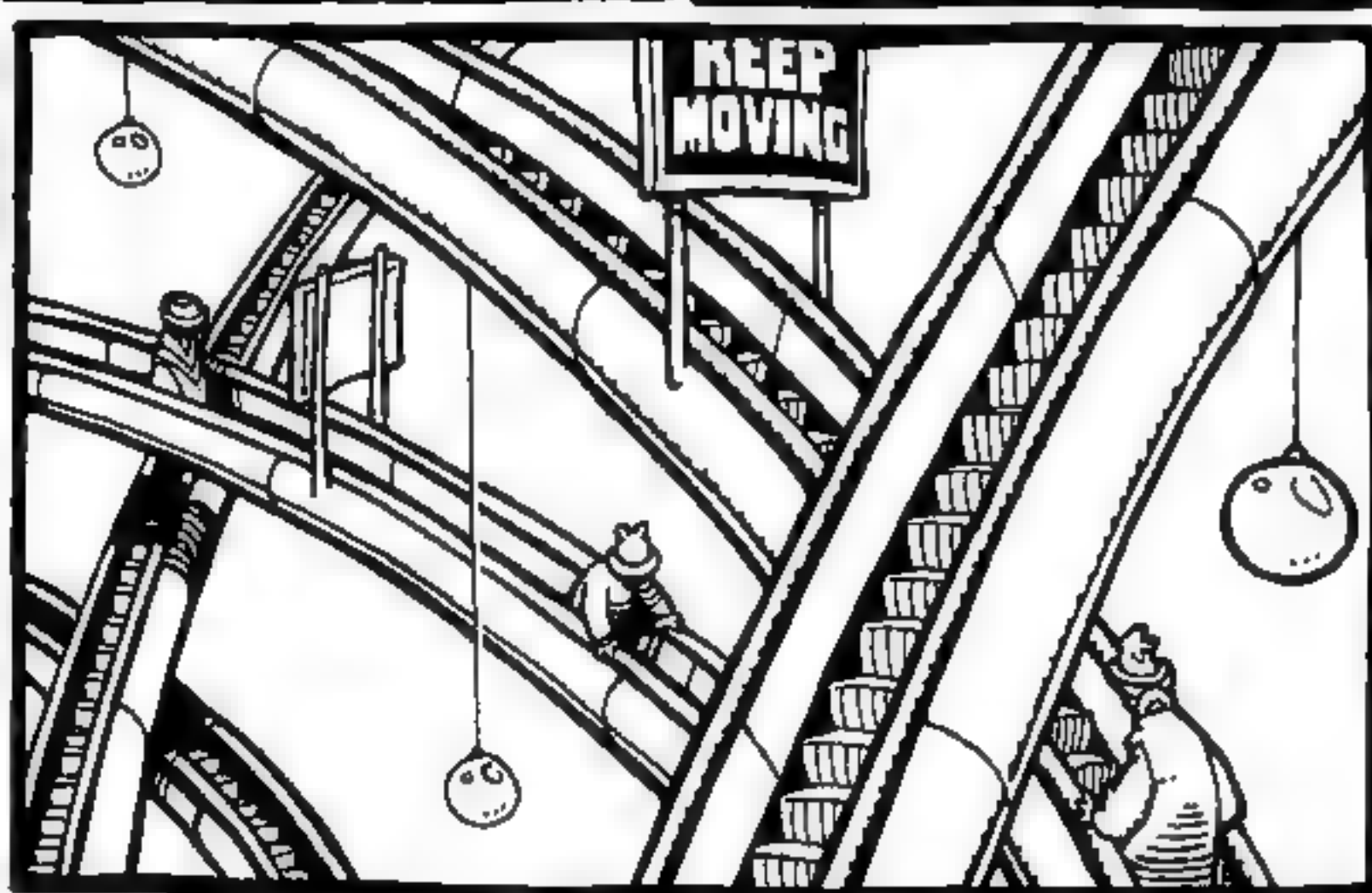
THE ADULT GENERATION OF CALISTO, I WAS TOLD, PREFER THEIR EXPERIENCES IN ISOLATION...



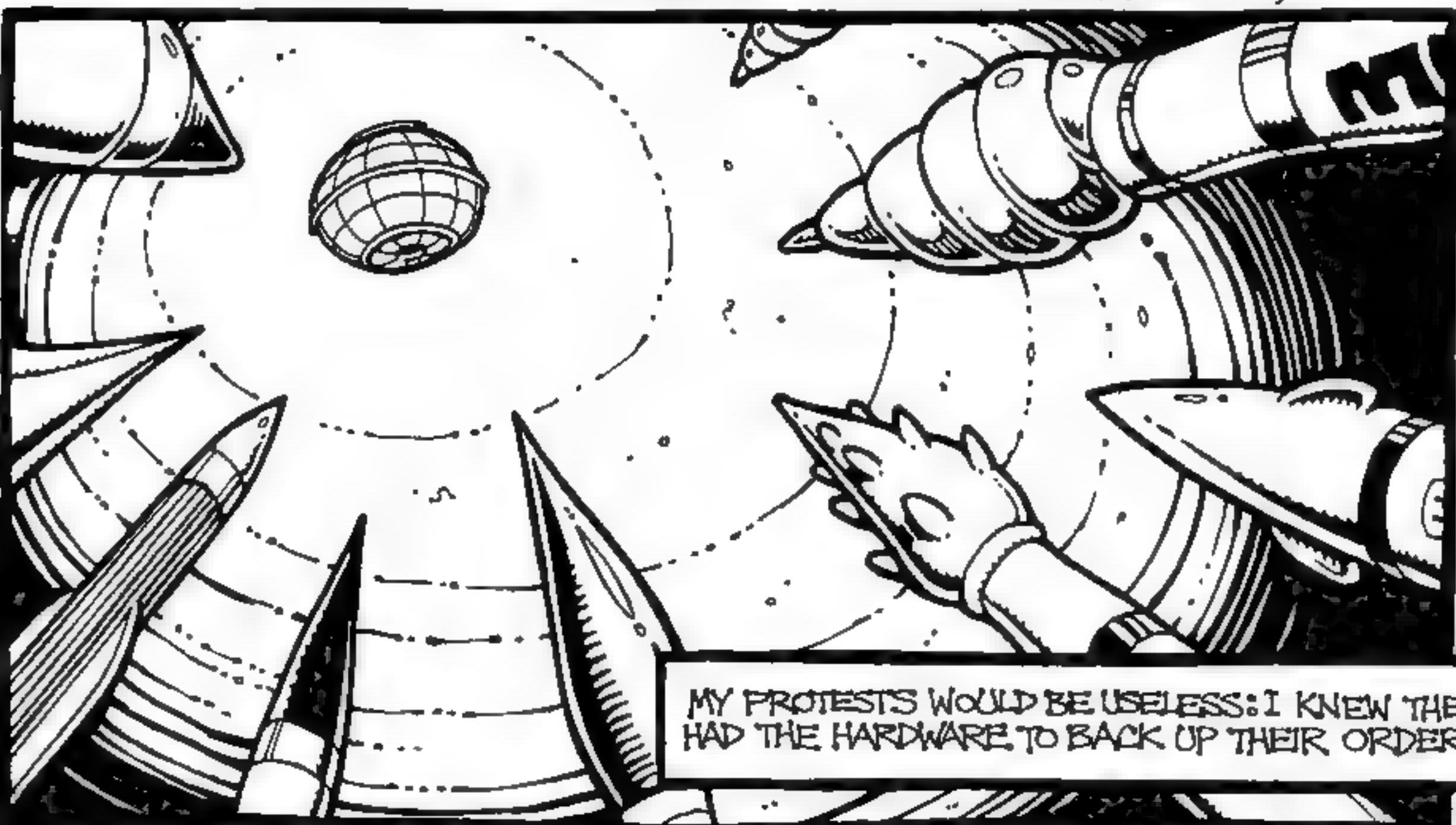
ALL OF LIFE IS SPENT BEFORE THE PERSONAL VID-SCREEN.



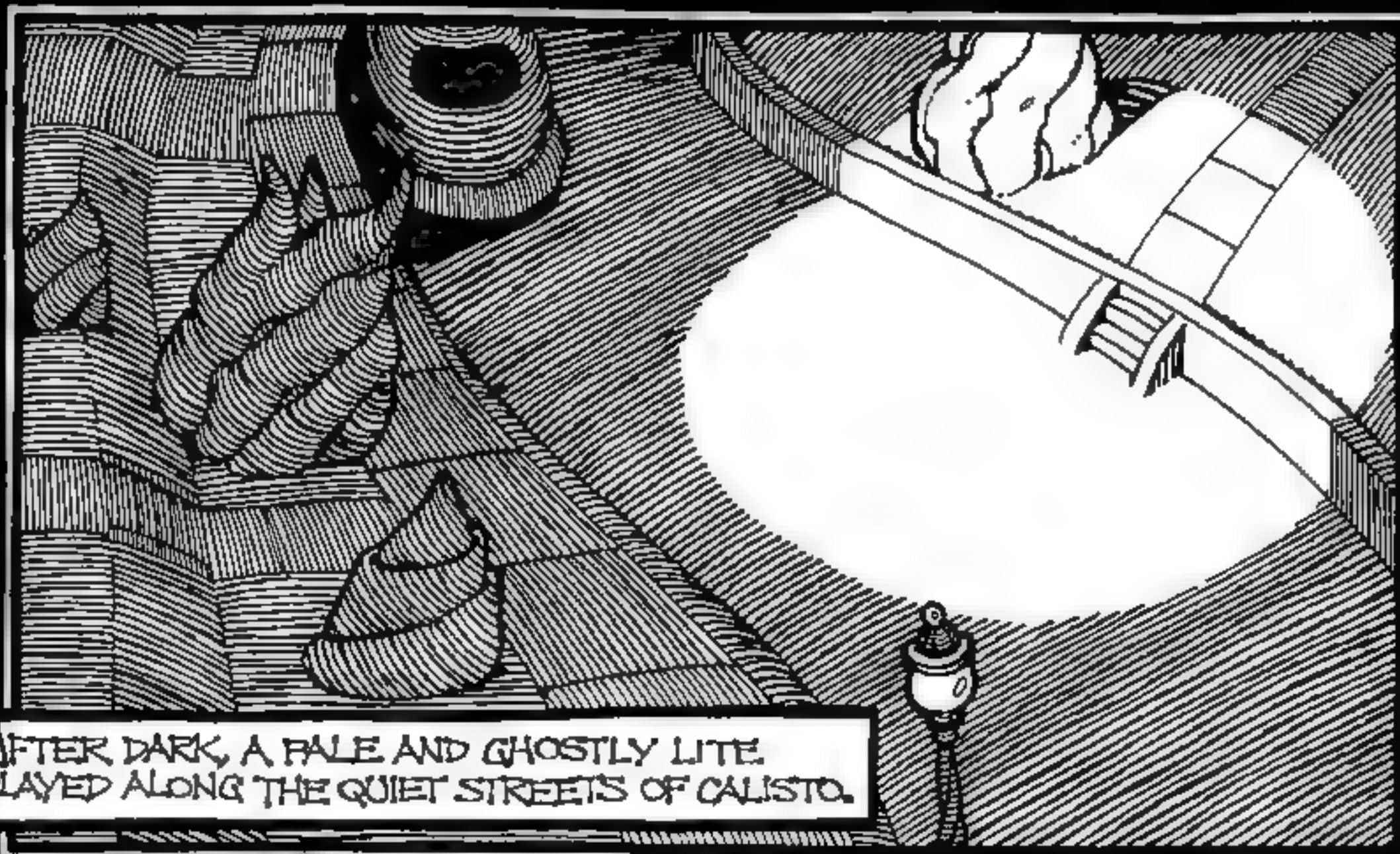
ONE DAY I RECEIVED A NOTICE FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: I MUST PAY A NEW AND EXORBITANT "CULTURE TAX" OR ELSE VACATE THE SKIES ABOVE CALISTO.



(THIS TAX, I LATER DISCOVERED, WAS PART OF A PROGRAM TO PHASE OUT ALL ENTERPRISES WHICH REQUIRE PEOPLE TO CONGREGATE.)



MY PROTESTS WOULD BE USELESS: I KNEW THEY HAD THE HARDWARE TO BACK UP THEIR ORDER.



AFTER DARK, A PALE AND GHOSTLY LIGHT
PLAYED ALONG THE QUIET STREETS OF CALISTO.



YOUNG PEOPLE WERE ROUSED
FROM THEIR SLUMBERS.



ASKING NO QUESTIONS, THEY
STRAYED OUT ONTO THE LAWNS.



SOON THE SKY WAS FILLED WITH
THEIR JOYOUS SQUEALS.

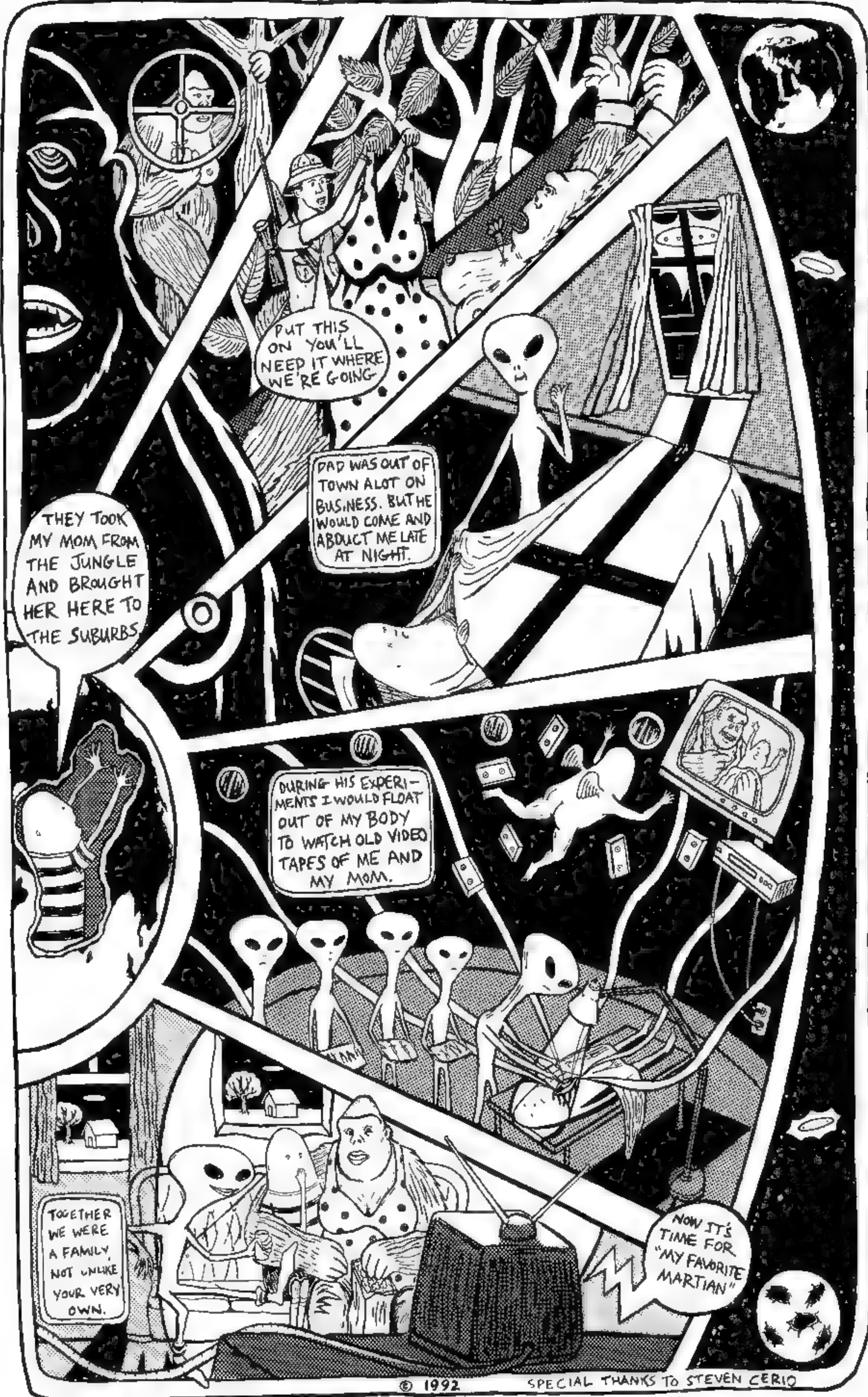
IN THE MORNING, SOME ADULTS OF CALISTO MIGHT WONDER WHAT HAS BECOME OF SO MANY BOTHERSOME TEENAGERS.



IN THE MEANTIME, WE'RE BOUND FOR THE RINGS OF SATURN, WHERE ATTITUDES ARE MORE ENLIGHTENED.

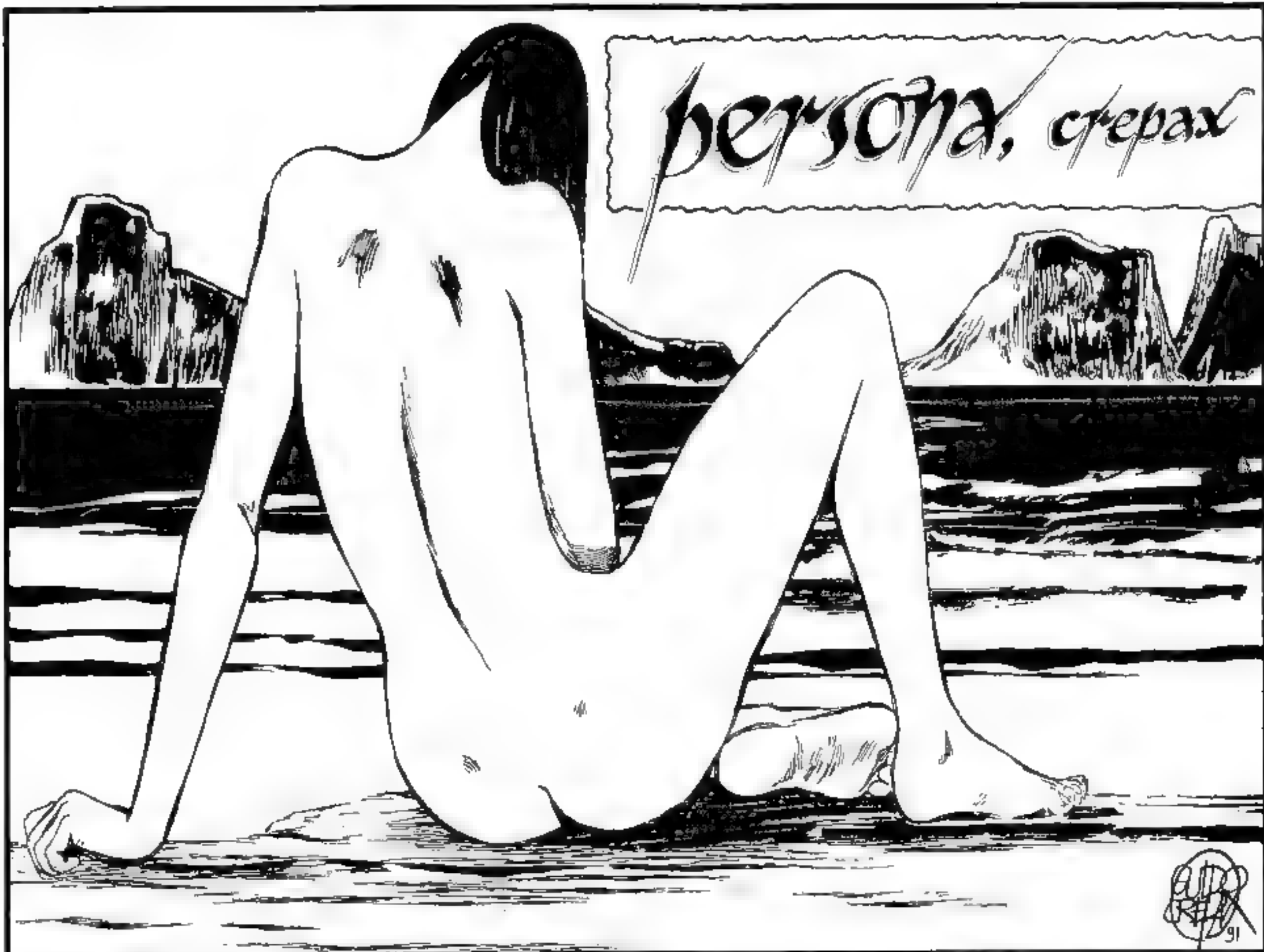
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© 1992

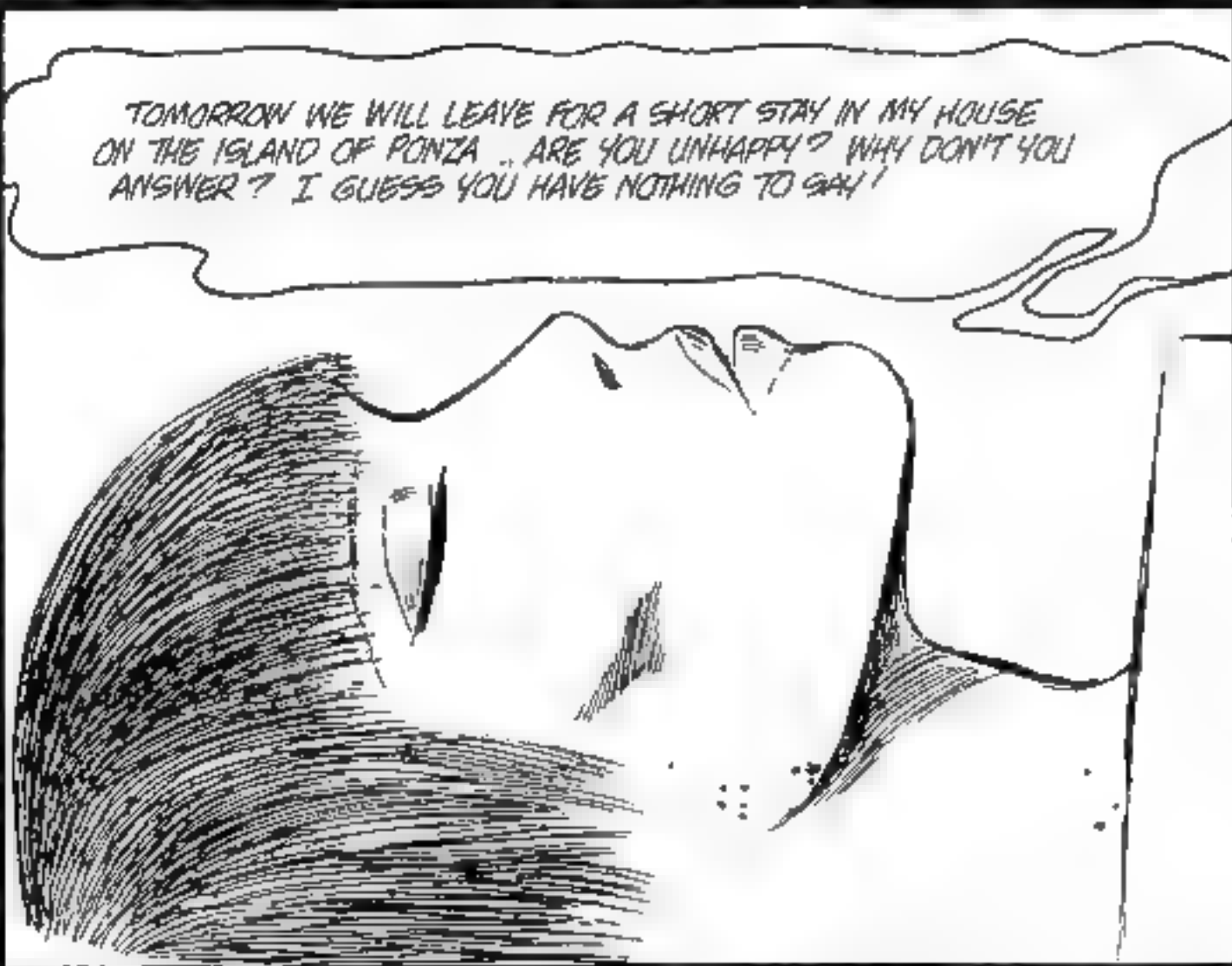
SPECIAL THANKS TO STEVEN CERIO



91



GOOD MORNING, MADAME I HAVE BEEN HIRED TO TAKE CARE OF YOU.



TOMORROW WE WILL LEAVE FOR A SHORT STAY IN MY HOUSE ON THE ISLAND OF PONZA .. ARE YOU UNHAPPY? WHY DON'T YOU ANSWER ? I GUESS YOU HAVE NOTHING TO SAY !



I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU DON'T
WANT TO TALK WHY YOU WANT TO
CUT YOURSELF OFF FROM THE
WORLD .

IT'S MUCH EASIER FOR ME
TIME DOES NOT EXIST
IN MY WORLD WHILE
YOU FEEL THE YEARS GO
BY, ONE BY ONE.



I'M NOT REALLY
SURE WHO I AM

I'M ALONE NO ONE
TO TIE ME DOWN

I CAN LIVE A THOUSAND
DIFFERENT LIVES I
ONLY NEED TO CHOOSE
THE ONE I WANT...

I DON'T HAVE TO BE
CONSISTENT YOU,
ON THE OTHER HAND,
HAVE CHOSEN TO
LIVE IN THE REAL
WORLD YOUR ONLY
ESCAPE ARE YOUR
DREAMS YOUR PAPERS
ARE IN ORDER YOU
ARE A WOMAN, A
MOTHER, A FRIEND ..

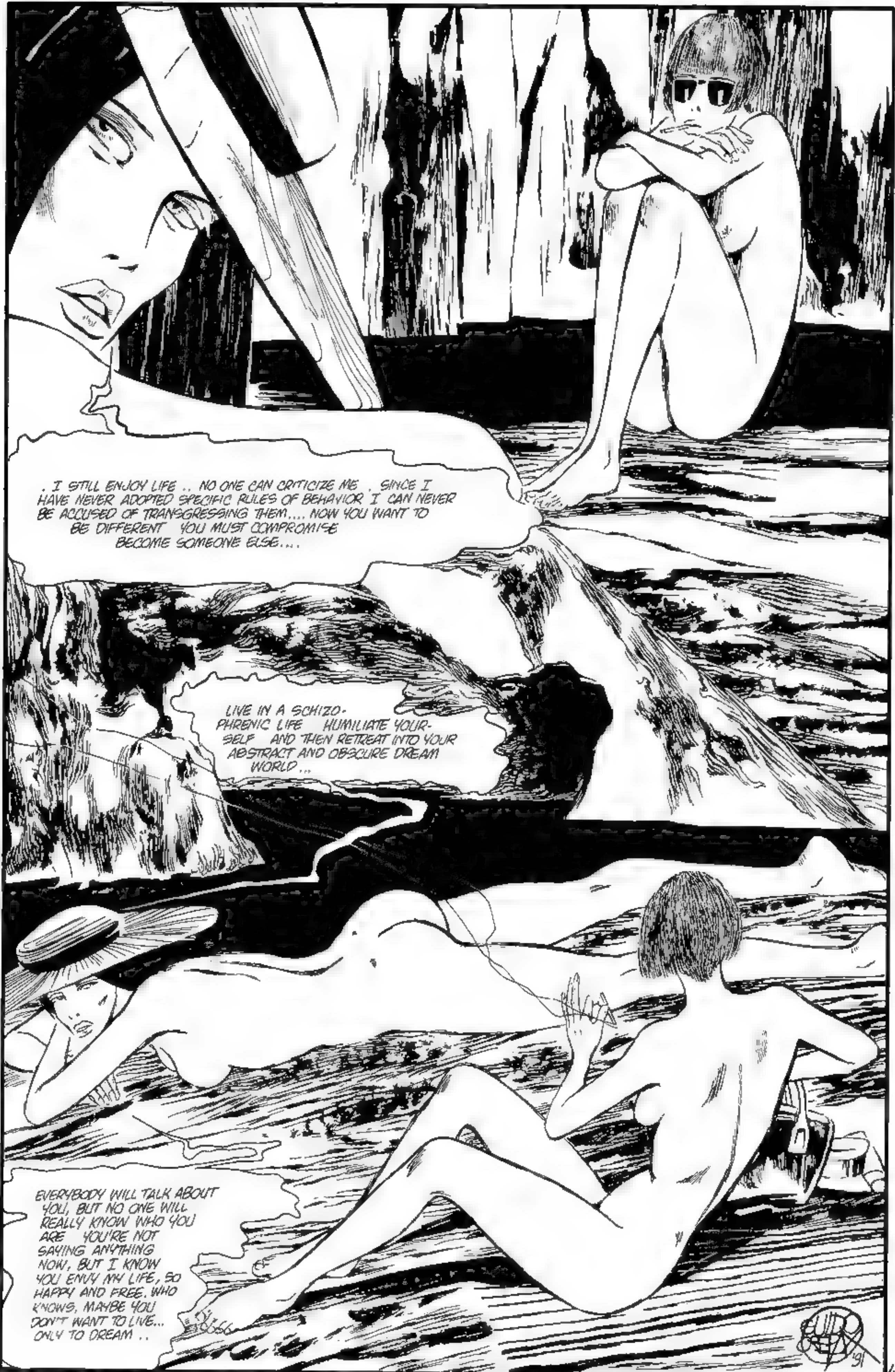
A LOVER... AN
INTELLECTUAL. YOU ARE
FULFILLED

BUT YOU DON'T
LOOK HAPPY, AND YOU
HAVE NO REAL
FREEDOM..

I WANT TO BE
DIFFERENT, I DON'T
WANT ANYTHING TO
CHANGE.. I WANT TO
BE TRUE TO
MYSELF...







. I STILL ENJOY LIFE .. NO ONE CAN CRITICIZE ME , SINCE I HAVE NEVER ADOPTED SPECIFIC RULES OF BEHAVIOR I CAN NEVER BE ACCUSED OF TRANSGRESSING THEM.... NOW YOU WANT TO BE DIFFERENT YOU MUST COMPROMISE BECOME SOMEONE ELSE...

LIVE IN A SCHIZO-
PHRENIC LIFE HUMILIATE YOUR-
SELF AND THEN RETREAT INTO YOUR
ABSTRACT AND OBSCURE DREAM
WORLD...

EVERYBODY WILL TALK ABOUT
YOU, BUT NO ONE WILL
REALLY KNOW WHO YOU
ARE YOU'RE NOT
SAYING ANYTHING
NOW, BUT I KNOW
YOU ENVY MY LIFE, SO
HAPPY AND FREE. WHO
KNOWS, MAYBE YOU
DON'T WANT TO LIVE...
ONLY TO DREAM ..

END 91



WHAT? IS IT MY
IMAGINATION? IS THE BEER
MAKING ME
HALLUCINATE?

SPEAK, 'IDIOT!
HAVE YOU BECOME
SPEECHLESS ALL OF
A SUDDEN?

SHIT! SOMEONE
IS DANCING ON THAT
CHIMNEY! SHIT!

PURITY



DEMONS IN HELL!
WHO CAN THAT MORON
BE?

I DON'T REALLY
KNOW, BUT I'M
SURE THAT

IT'S A WOMAN, AND
NOT A YOUNG ONE.



A WOMAN! A WOMAN!
BUT SHIT! SHIT!
AND

SHUT UP! YOU
WANT HER TO
HEAR YOU?



WHO CAN THAT BE?

DON'T YOU KNOW
WHO LIVES IN THAT
HOUSE?



FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE!

YES, IT'S HARD TO
BELIEVE THAT IS
THE TEACHER'S
HOUSE.

MRS CONNELL,
THE SPINSTER

DOES SHE DO THIS EVERY NIGHT?
YES... AT LEAST FOR THE PAST
THREE NIGHTS WHEN I'VE WATCHED
HER. WAIT A MINUTE!

SOMEONE IS AN-
SWERING HER
SIGNALS FROM
THE TOWER...

DARK?

DARK

PUFF

P

FINALLY

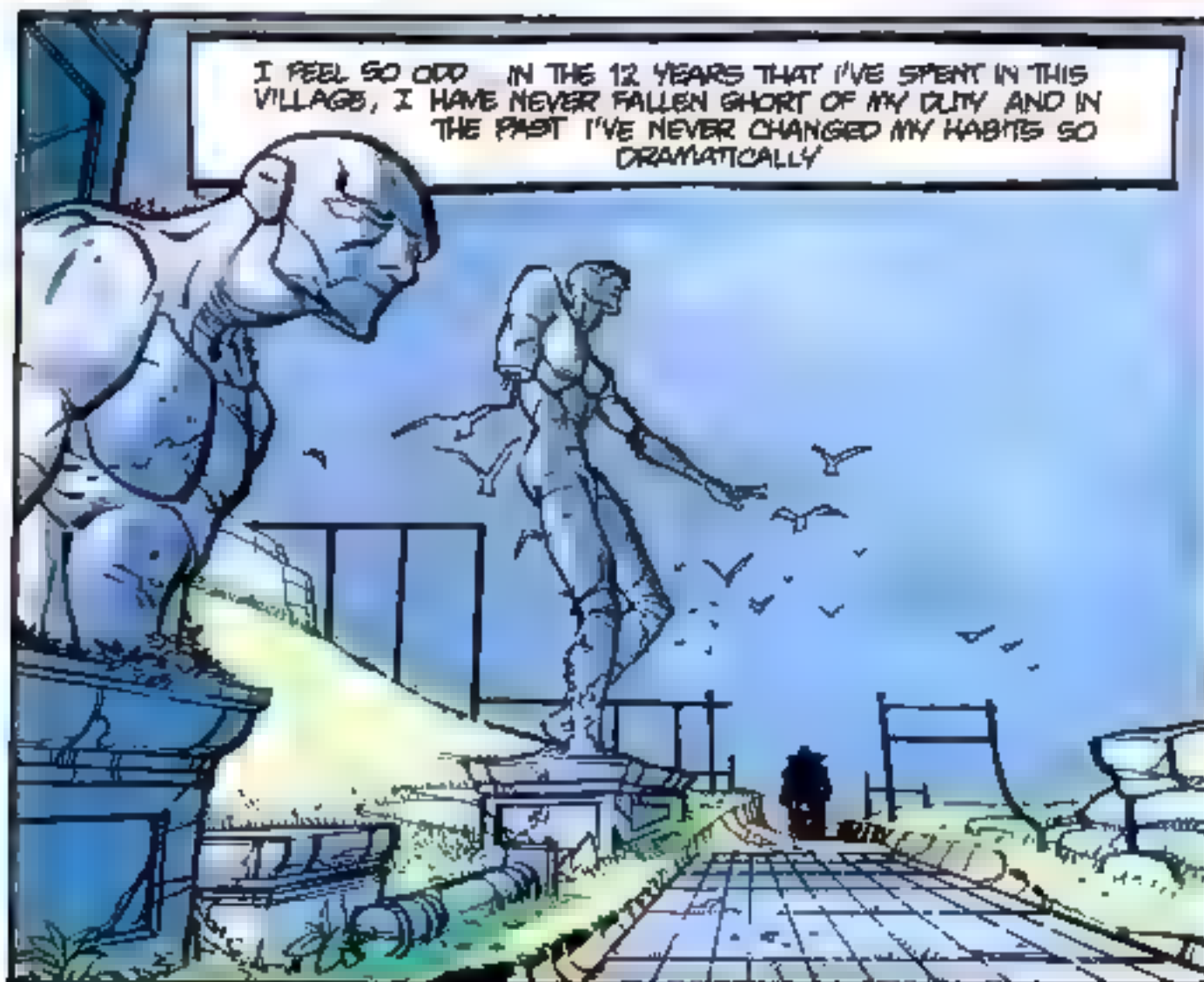
ALEXANDER? WHY AREN'T
YOU IN SCHOOL?
ALEX?

IT'S ME, MOMMY. IT'S BECAUSE
MRS. CONNELL COULDN'T COME
IN TODAY, SHE'S SICK.

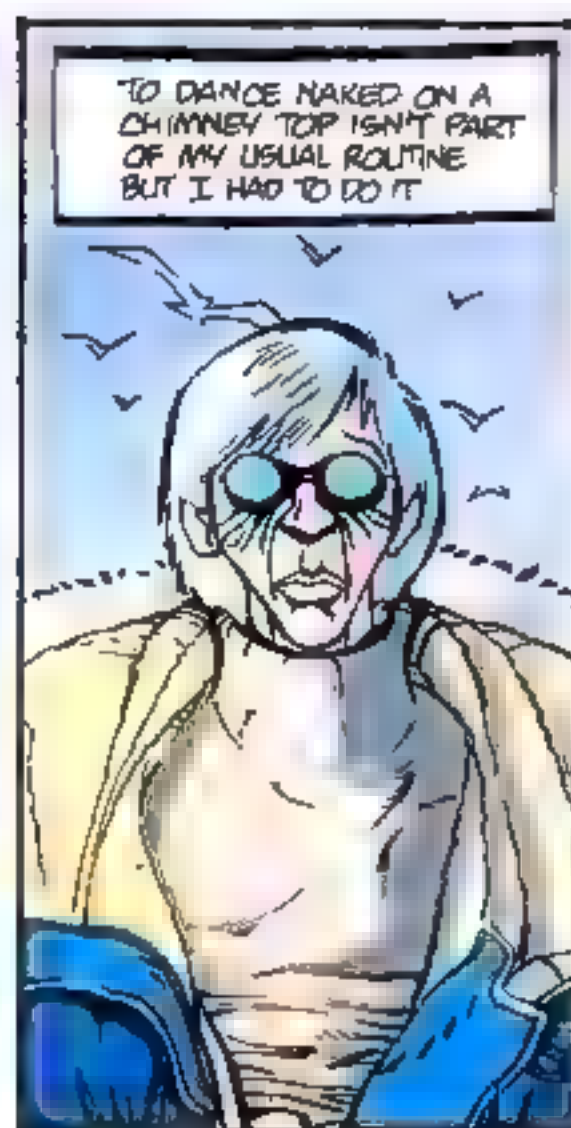
SICK?

THAT POOR WOMAN IS ALL ALONE
I HOPE SOMEONE TAKES
CARE OF HER

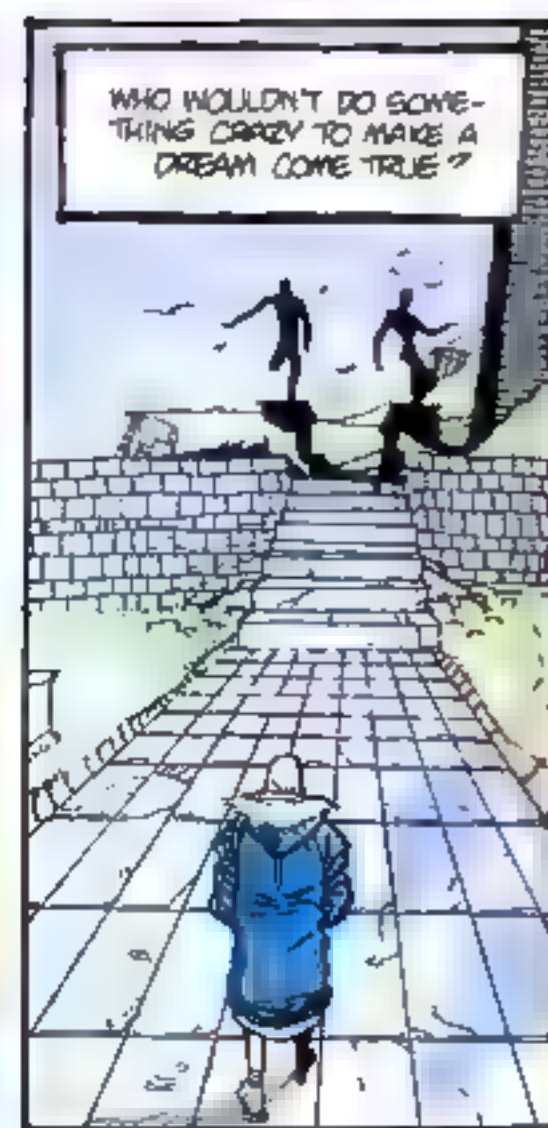
SHE NEEDS A HUSBAND.



I FEEL SO ODD IN THE 12 YEARS THAT I'VE SPENT IN THIS VILLAGE, I HAVE NEVER FALLEN SHORT OF MY DUTY AND IN THE PAST I'VE NEVER CHANGED MY HABITS SO DRAMATICALLY



TO DANCE NAKED ON A CHIMNEY TOP ISN'T PART OF MY USUAL ROUTINE BUT I HAD TO DO IT



WHO WOULDN'T DO SOMETHING CRAZY TO MAKE A DREAM COME TRUE?

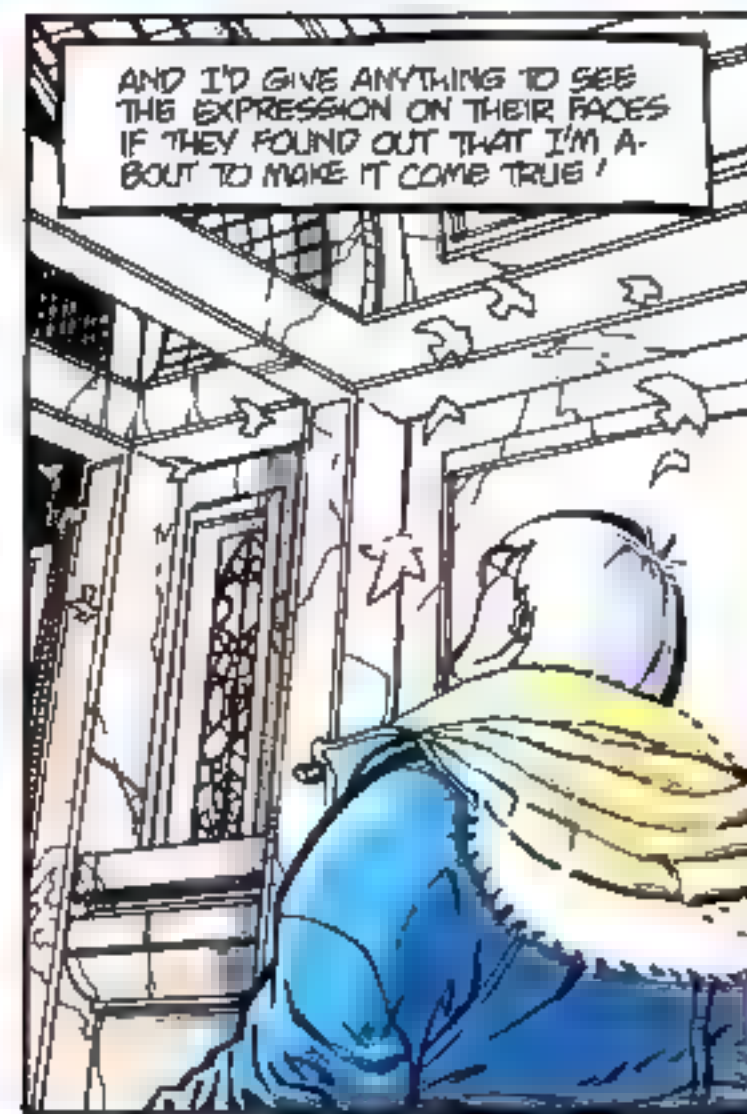


WE ALL HAVE A DREAM. WHAT HAPPENS IS THAT MOST PEOPLE DON'T BELIEVE IN THEIR DREAMS... THEIR DREAMS CAN NEVER HAPPEN.



I WONDER WHAT THE PEOPLE OF THE VILLAGE WOULD SAY IF THEY KNEW WHAT MY DREAM IS.

DARK?



AND I'D GIVE ANYTHING TO SEE THE EXPRESSION ON THEIR FACES IF THEY FOUND OUT THAT I'M ABOUT TO MAKE IT COME TRUE!



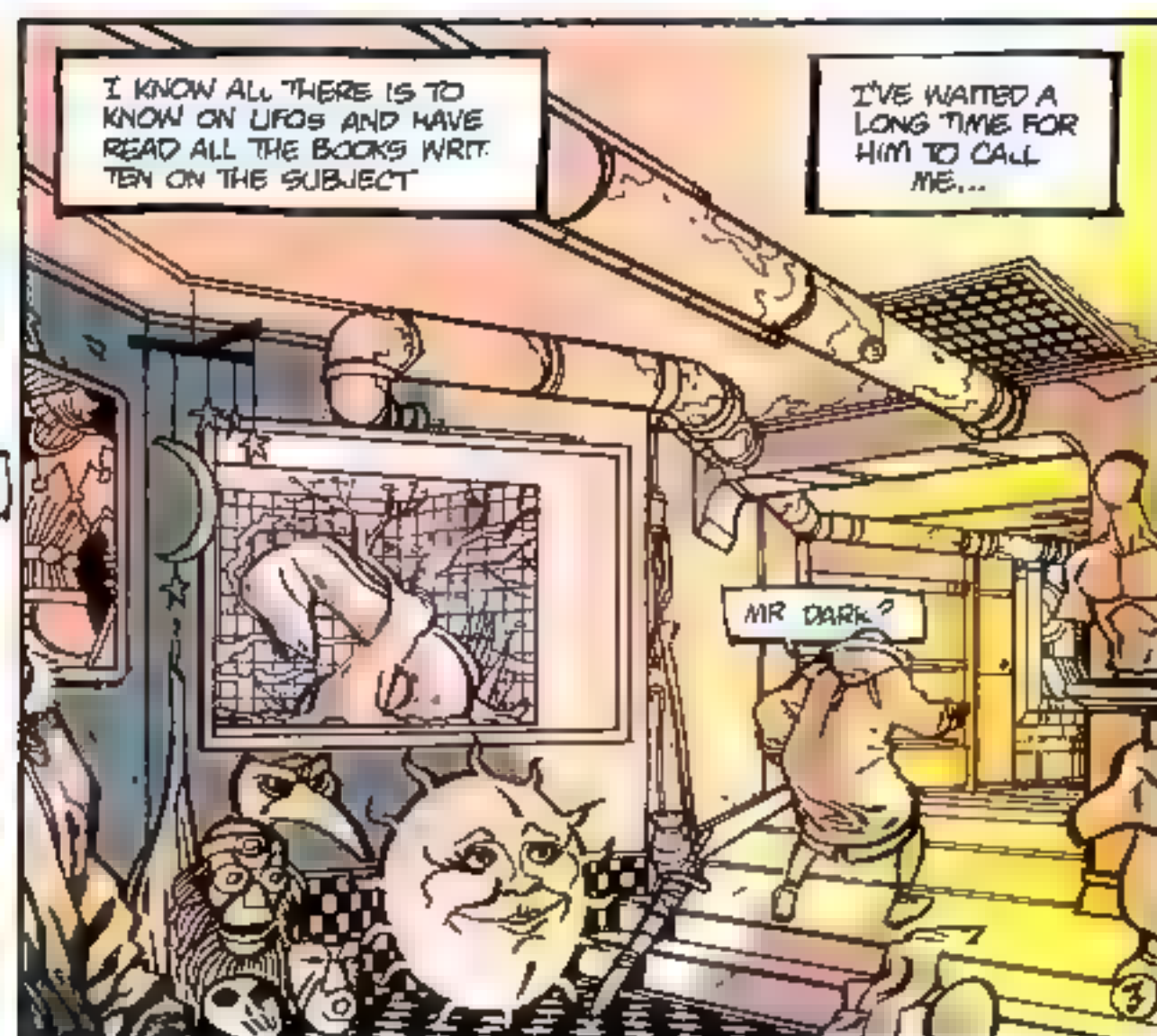
I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN THERE WAS LIFE BEYOND THE STARS...

DARK?



THAT THERE WERE BEINGS WHO OBSERVE US AND WATCH OUT FOR US EVER SINCE WE WERE BORN...

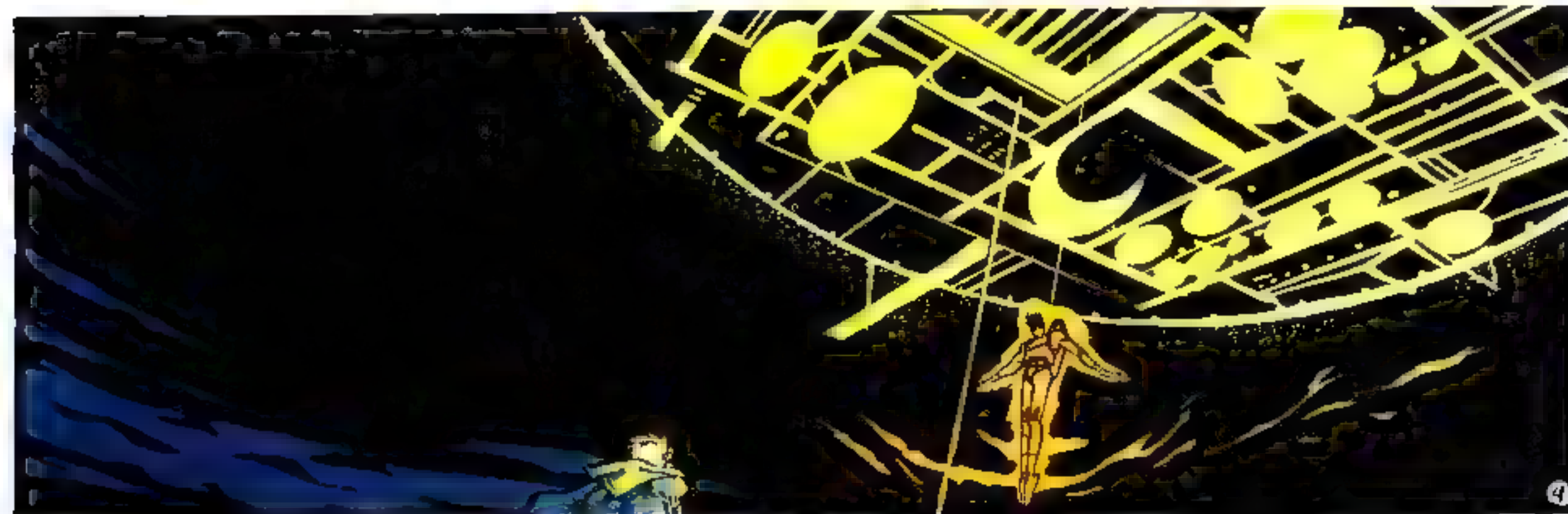
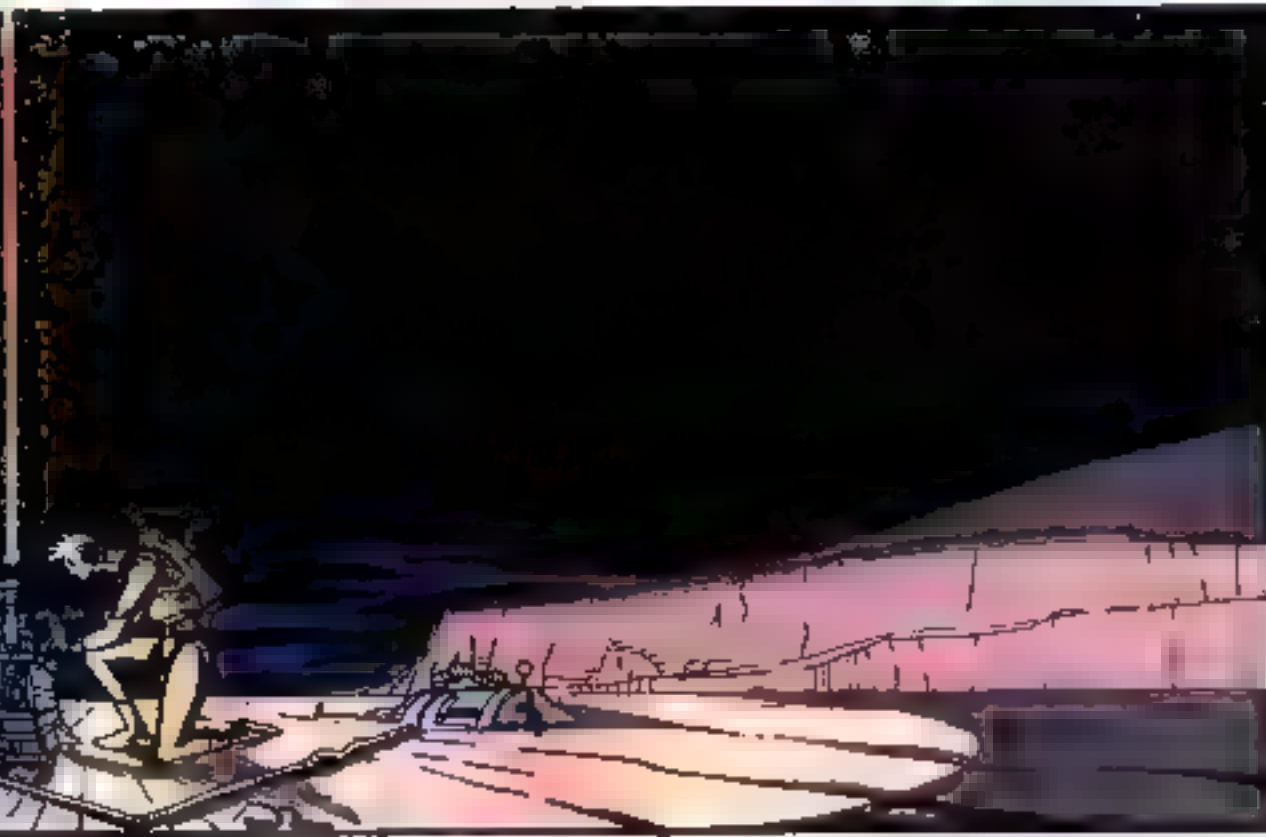
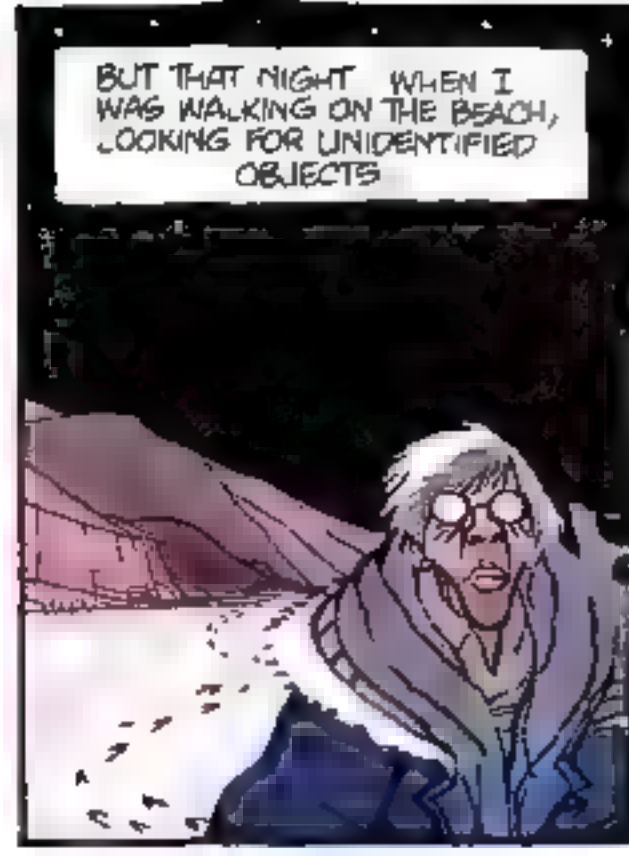
OH!

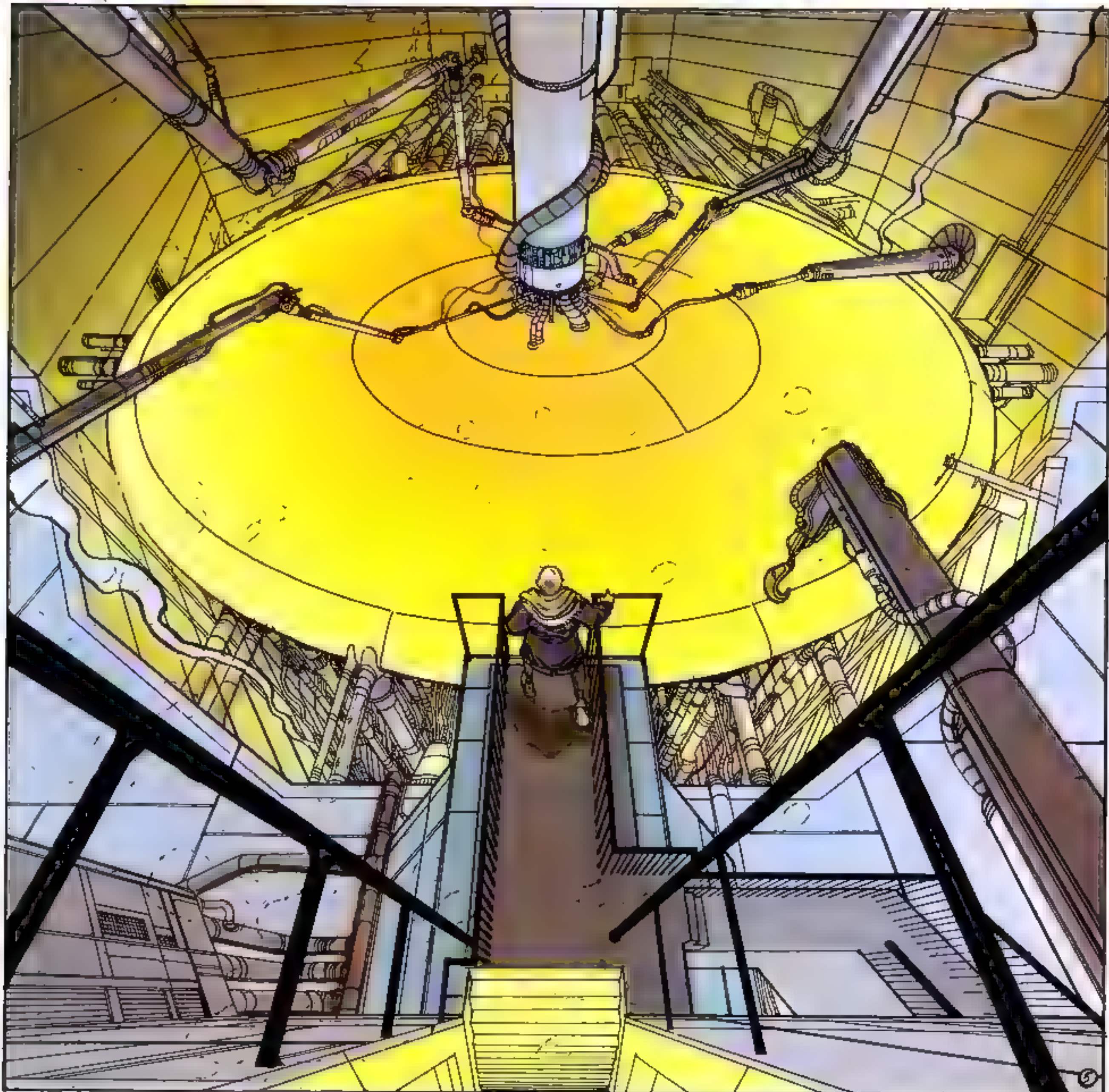


I KNOW ALL THERE IS TO KNOW ON UFOS AND HAVE READ ALL THE BOOKS WRITTEN ON THE SUBJECT

I'VE WAITED A LONG TIME FOR HIM TO CALL ME...

MR DARK?



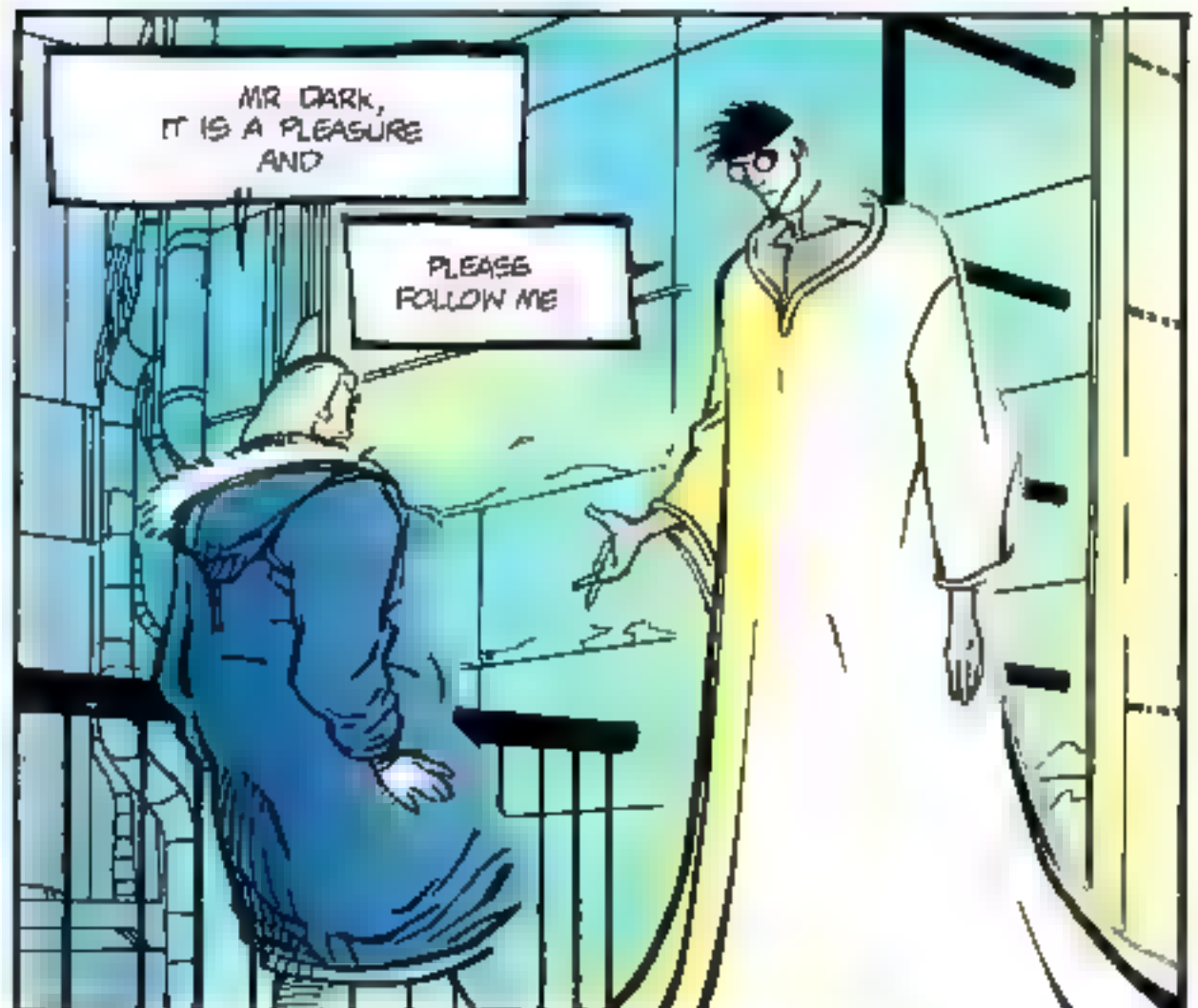




HOW BEAUTIFUL
IT IS!



CONNELL

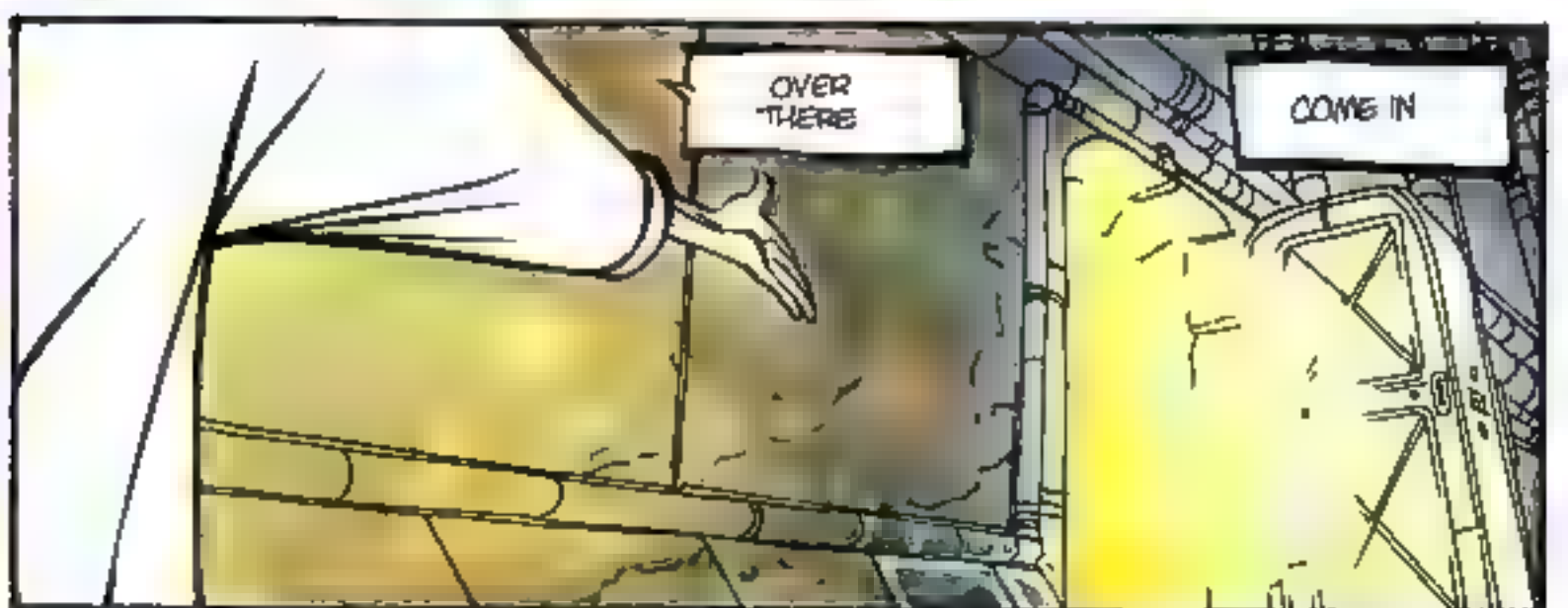


MR DARK,
IT IS A PLEASURE
AND

PLEASE
FOLLOW ME

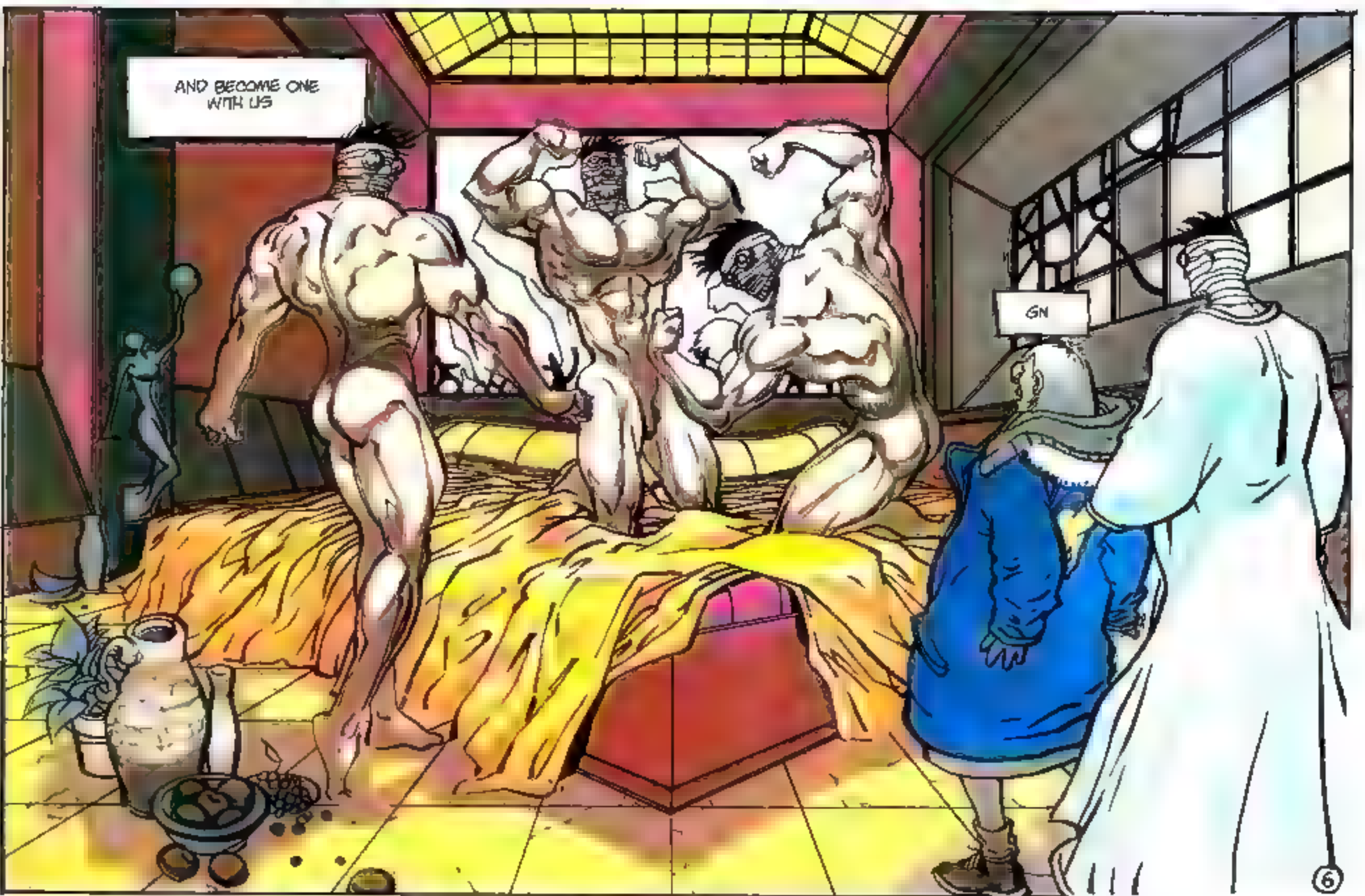


WHERE ARE WE GOING? ARE THEY
GOING TO TAKE ME BEYOND
THE STARS BEYOND THE
LIMITS OF OUR COSMOS.



OVER
THERE

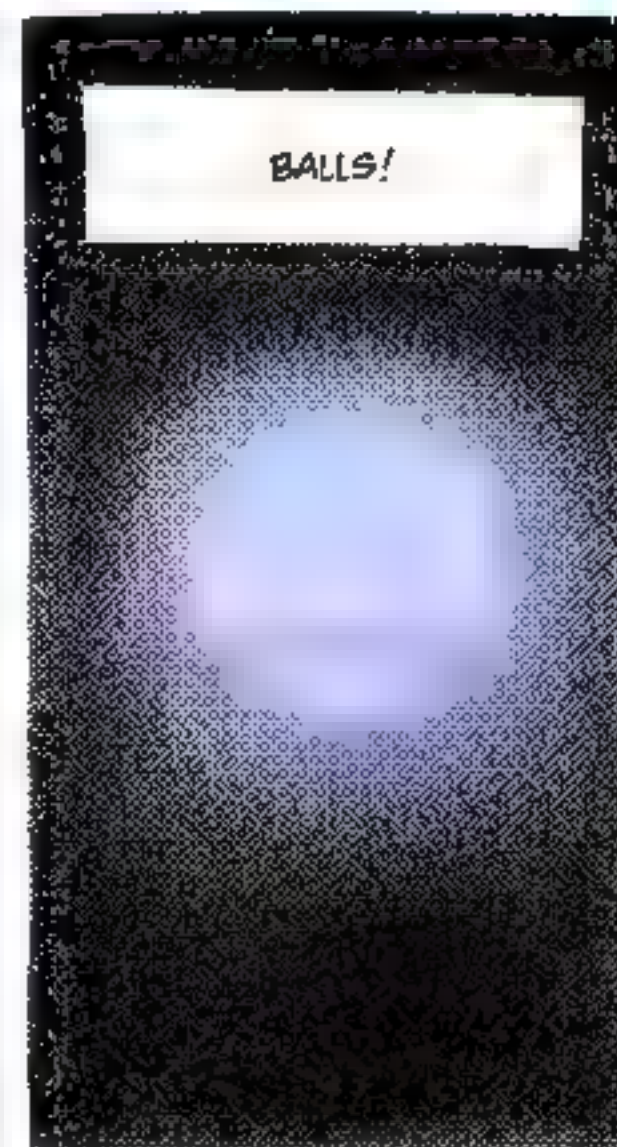
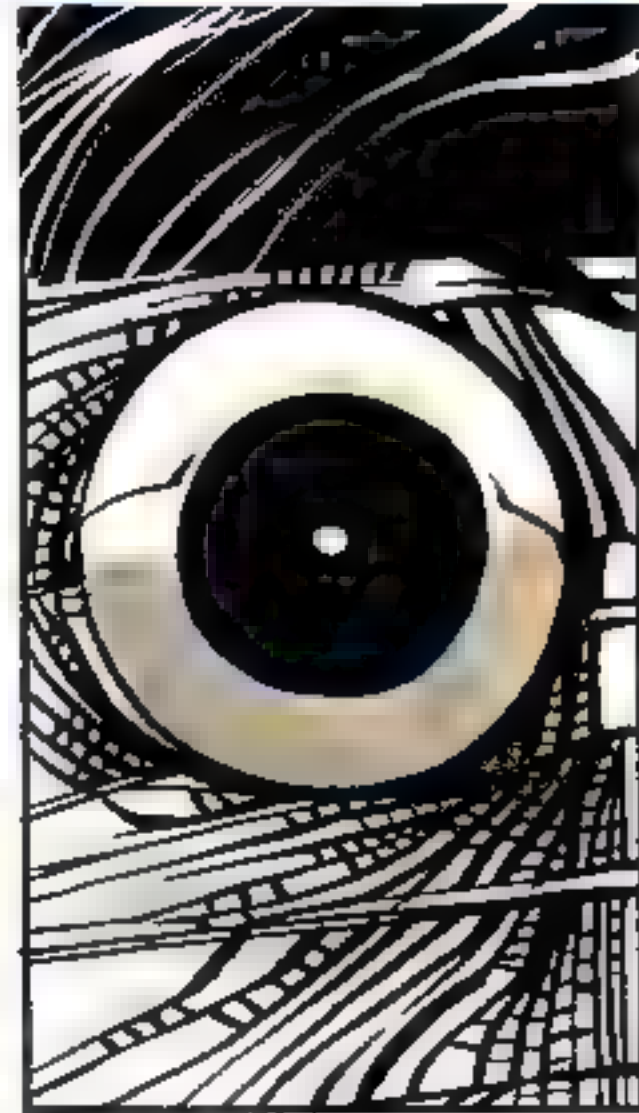
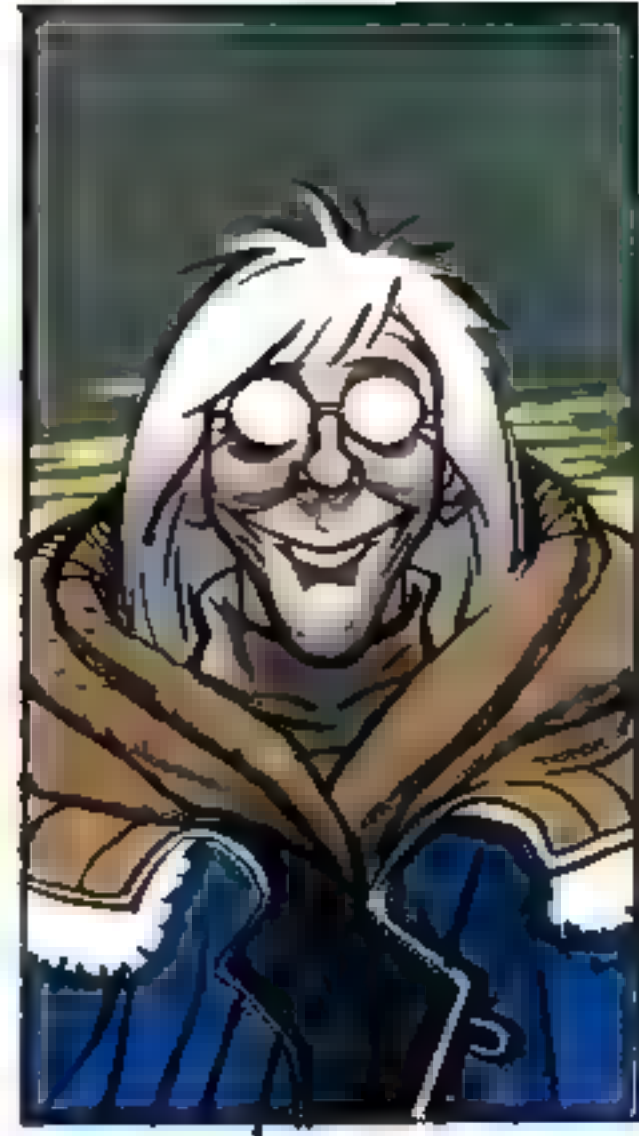
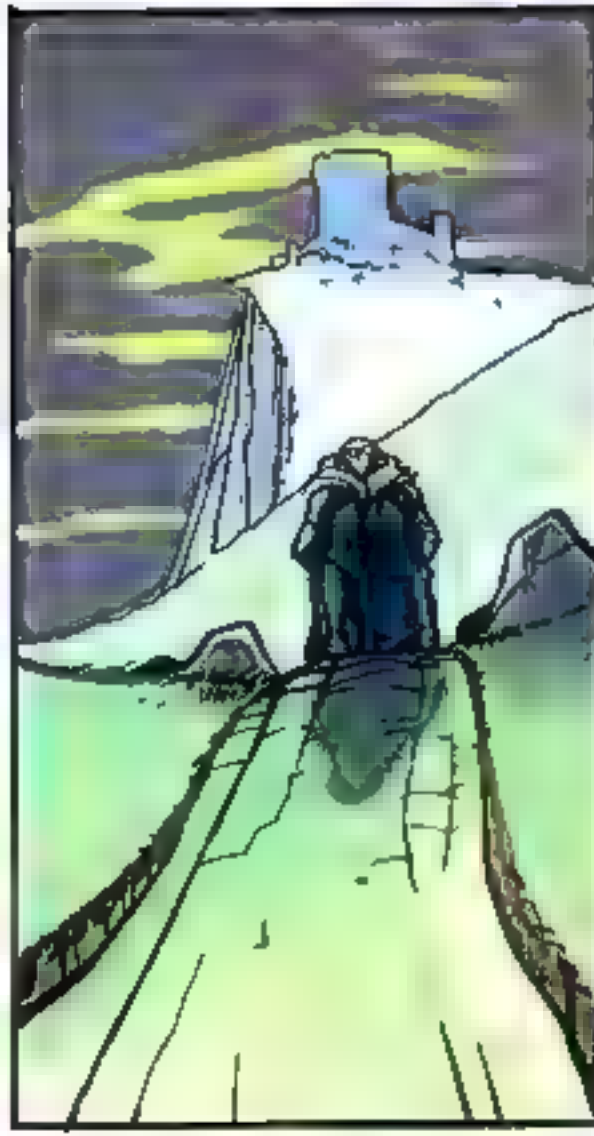
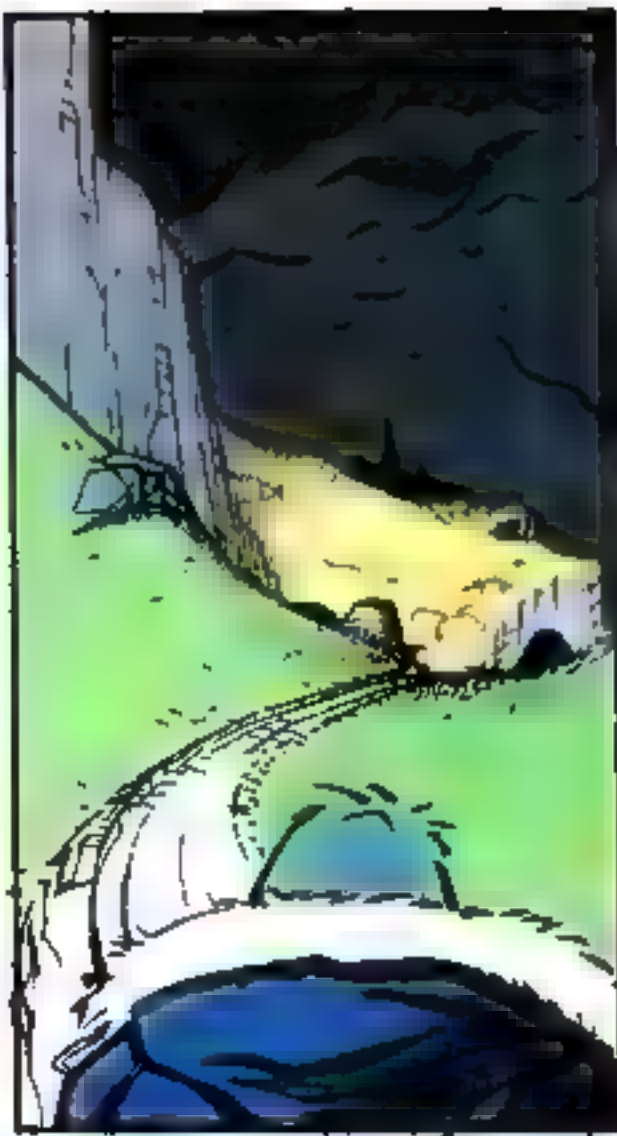
COME IN



AND BECOME ONE
WITH US

GN

6





TO HELL WITH HER! I'M STILL NOT SATISFIED AND I'M DYING OF HUNGER! WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP THERE AT YOUR AGE?

SHE'S... SHE'S NAKED. LOOK AT THOSE TITS!

SHE'S NOT THAT GREAT BUT FOR YOU, ANYTHING'LL DO AS LONG AS IT IS STILL BREATHING...



GO FOR IT, CONNELL. AND SHE LOOKED LIKE A LITTLE OLD LADY...

CLOTHES HIDE A LOT OF THINGS

WHAT A GREAT ASS!

DON'T GET ALL EXCITED NOW. DARK IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN TOUCH HER!

DON'T GET ANGRY YOU COULDN'T DO IT EVEN IF YOU WANTED TO



LOOK AT WHAT WE'VE MISSED, ANGUS... SHE CAN DANCE!

SHE SEEMS POSSESSED

SHE'S SO INTENSE

WHO KNOWS. WHO KNOWS IF THIS IS WHAT IT IS I WONDER

PASCUAL FERRY 94

8



CAYMAN CAA, RO-
JIVE, UTA JE NPA
BH FRENCH!

IT WOULD BE WONDERFUL,
A FANTASTIC EVENING. BUT
YOU KNOW HOW IT IS... MAY-
BE SOME OTHER TIME



GOOD
EVENING! WE
ARE TOMORROW.
ARRIVED...
IN OUR
YOUR VILLAGE...
LOUVRE?



YES, OF COURSE, THE
LOUVRE... YOU ARE A
LITTLE LATE. TOO
LATE. NO MORE
LOUVRE..

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, NO
MORE! IT'S OPEN ALL NIGHT
... RIGHT THERE, AT THE
CORNER. YOU'LL SEE
PETIT LOUVRE WRITTEN ON
WALL.

AAA, AAA,
YES, YES
LOUVRE
LISA...
MONA
LISA



YES, YES, YOU'LL
FIND LISA THERE!
ASK FOR HER ON
THE 1ST FLOOR

YOU CAN
TAKE VENERA,
IF YOU
WISH

HENRY,
COME
HERE!



LOOK! LA
GOULIE IS
ON THE
POSTER!



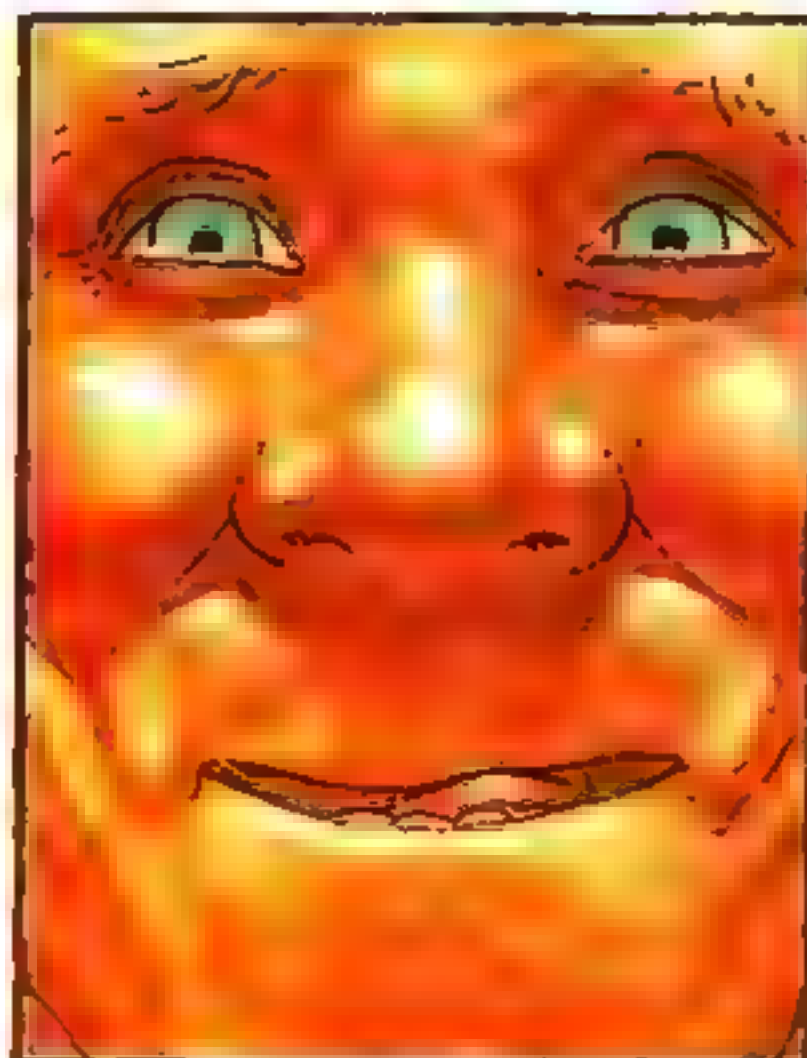
CONCERT
BAL
TOUTES LES SOIRÉES
LA GOULIE

CONCERT
BAL
TOUTES LES SOIRÉES
LA GOULIE

HENRY,
DID YOU
DRAW THAT?



HEY,
YOUNG MAN,
WAIT A
MINUTE!
LE ROI
DE PETITS
SAMURAI
SAUVAGES

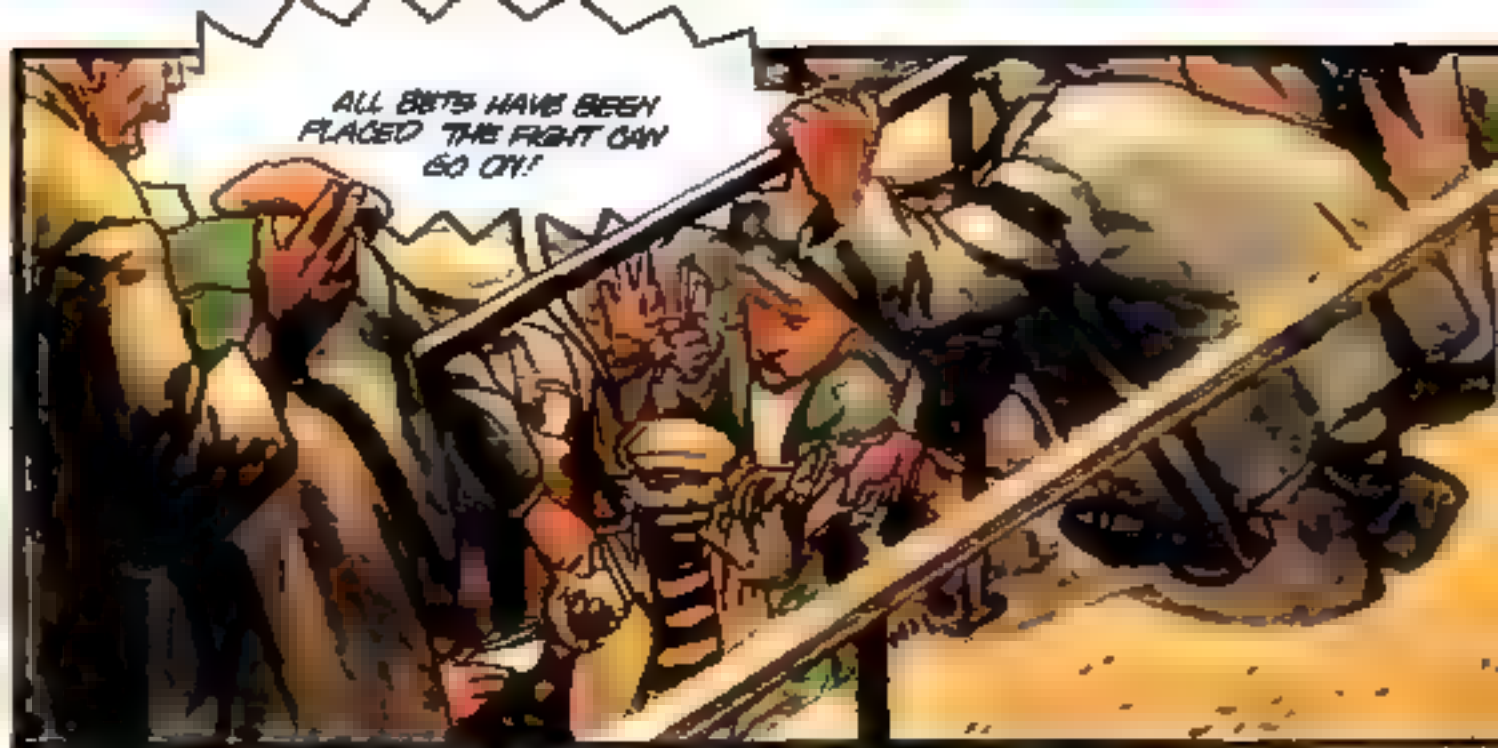




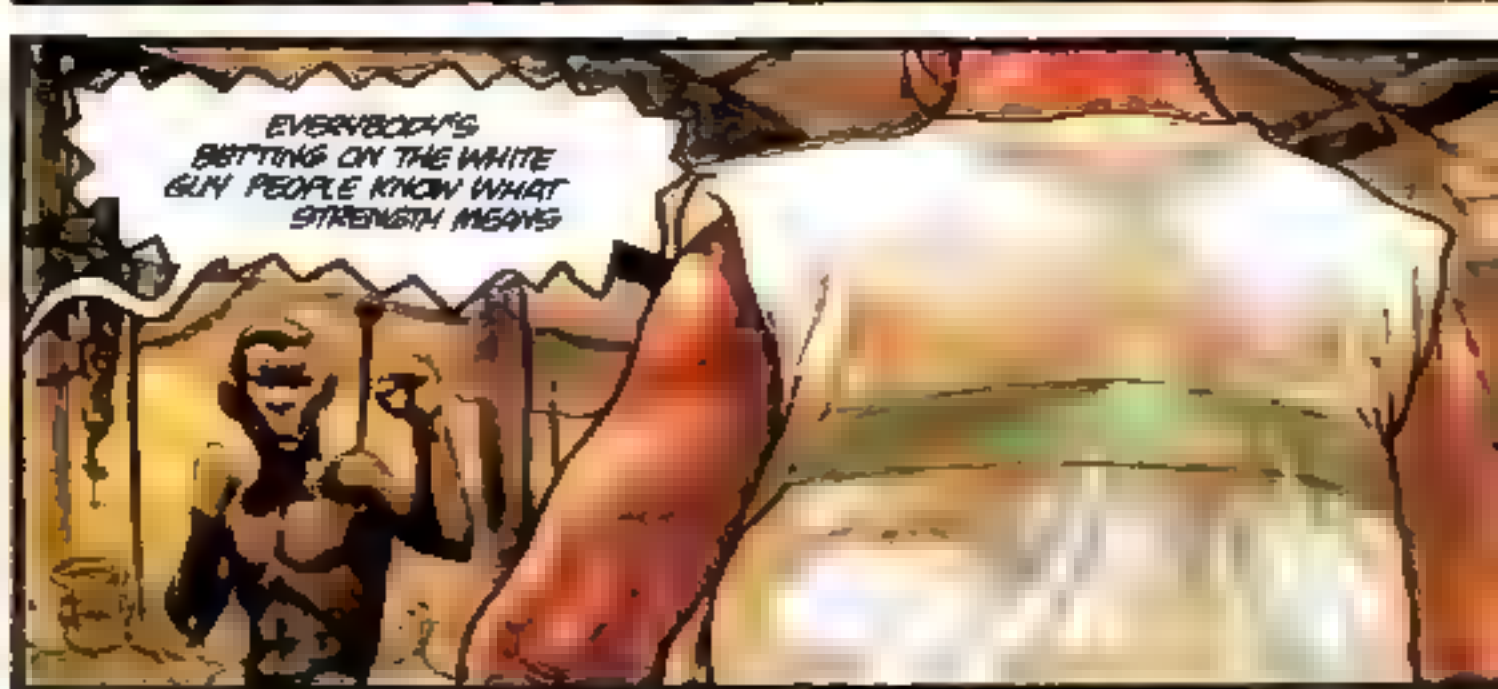
I CAN TELL YOU NOW. IF YOU WANT TO MAKE SOME MONEY, PLACE YOUR BET ON MY GUY ...

CAN YOU SPARE ANOTHER CIGAR?

COME CLOSER MY GOOD PEOPLE! I PUT MY MONEY ON THE BLACK MAN YOU'LL REGRET IT IF YOU DO IT, BUT YOU'LL REGRET IT MORE IF YOU DON'T



EVERYBODY'S BETTING ON THE WHITE GUY PEOPLE KNOW WHAT STRENGTH MEANS

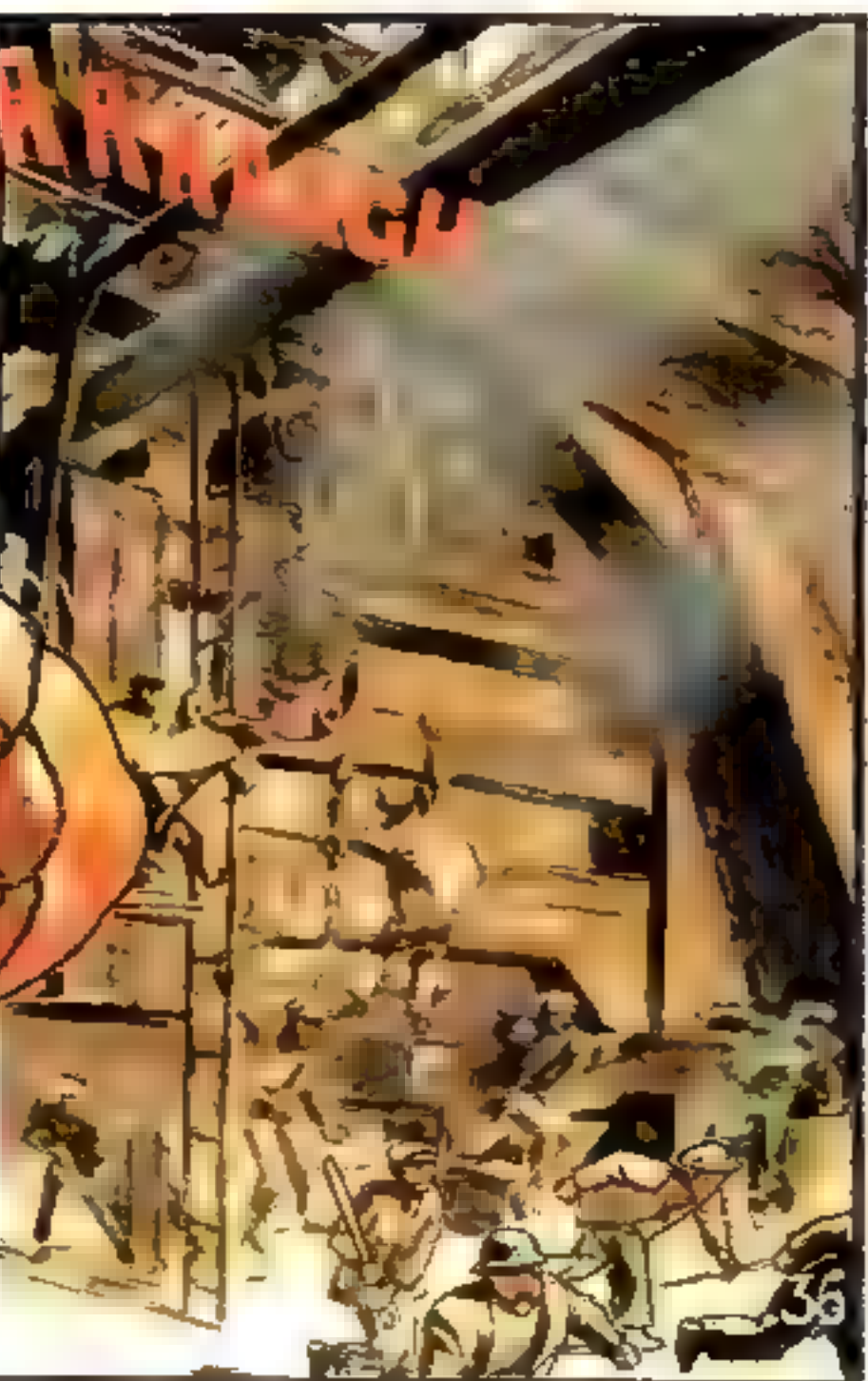
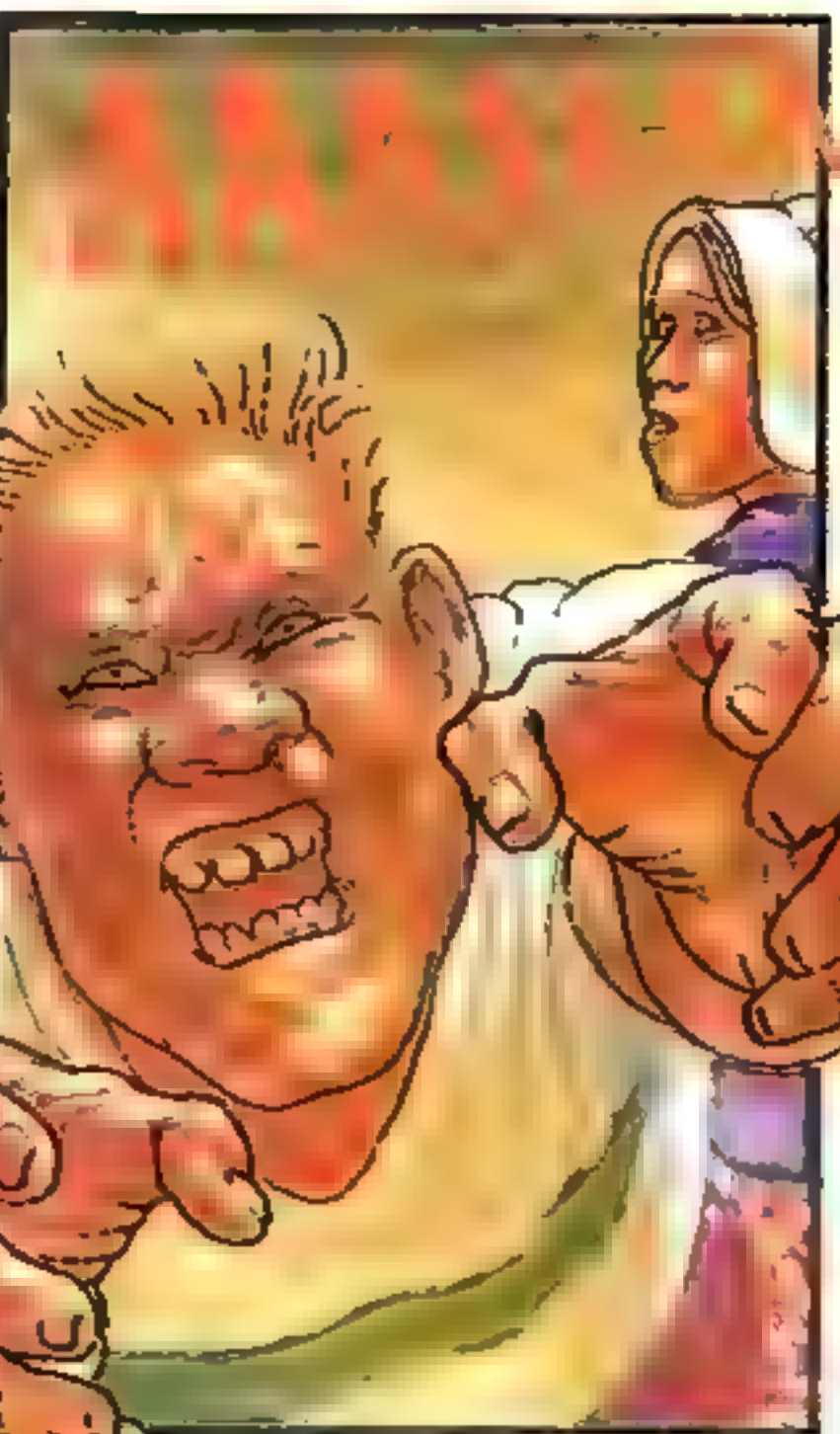
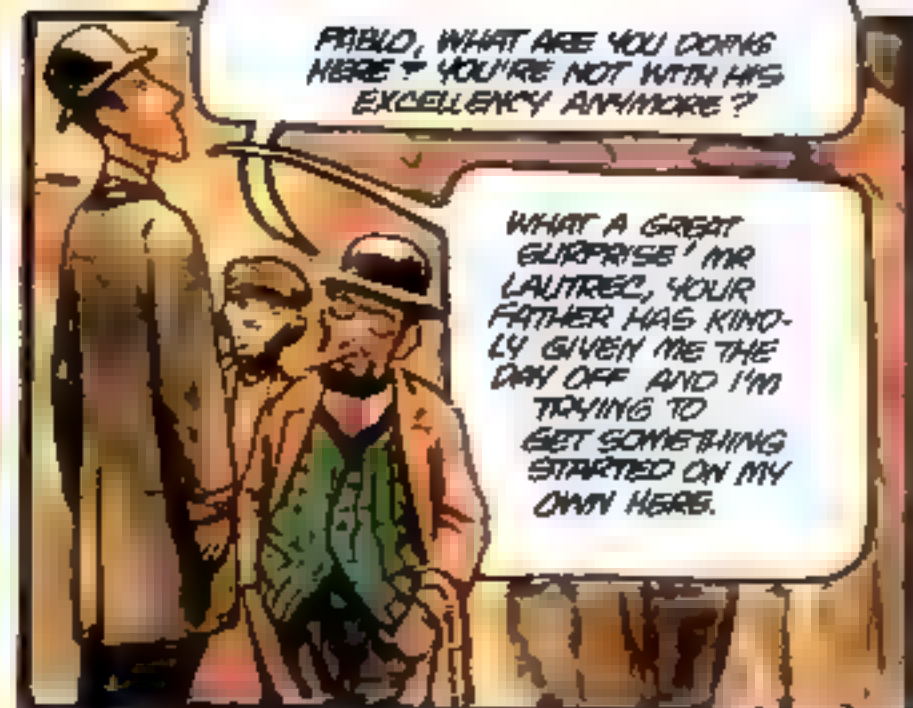
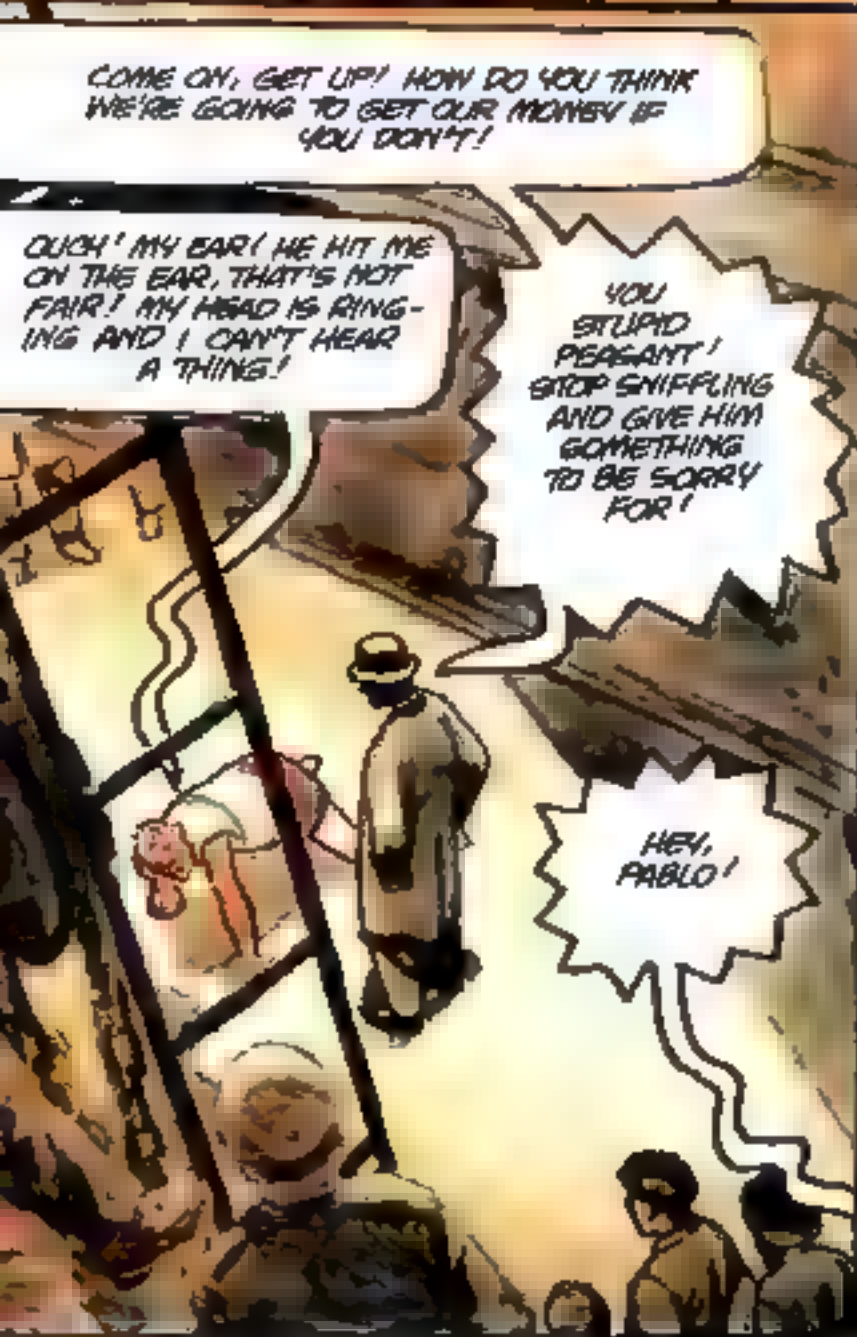


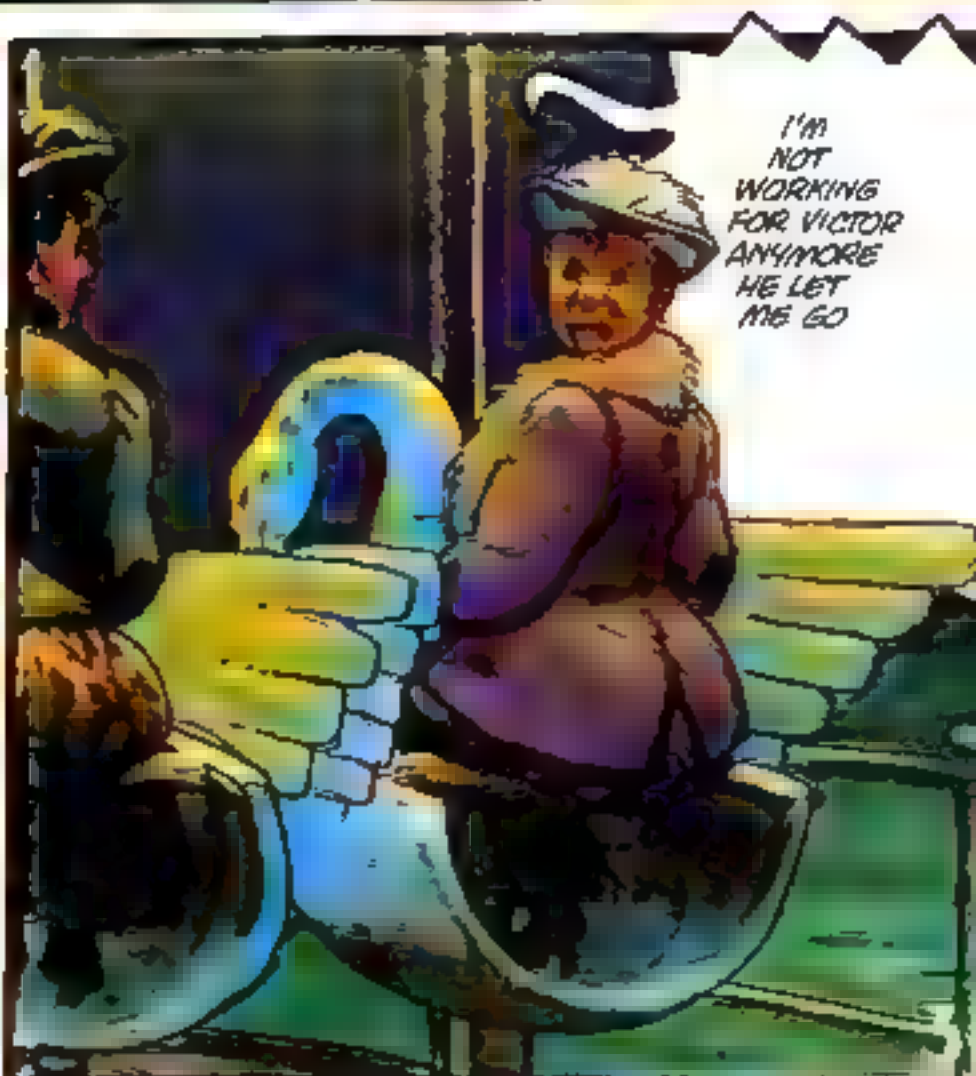
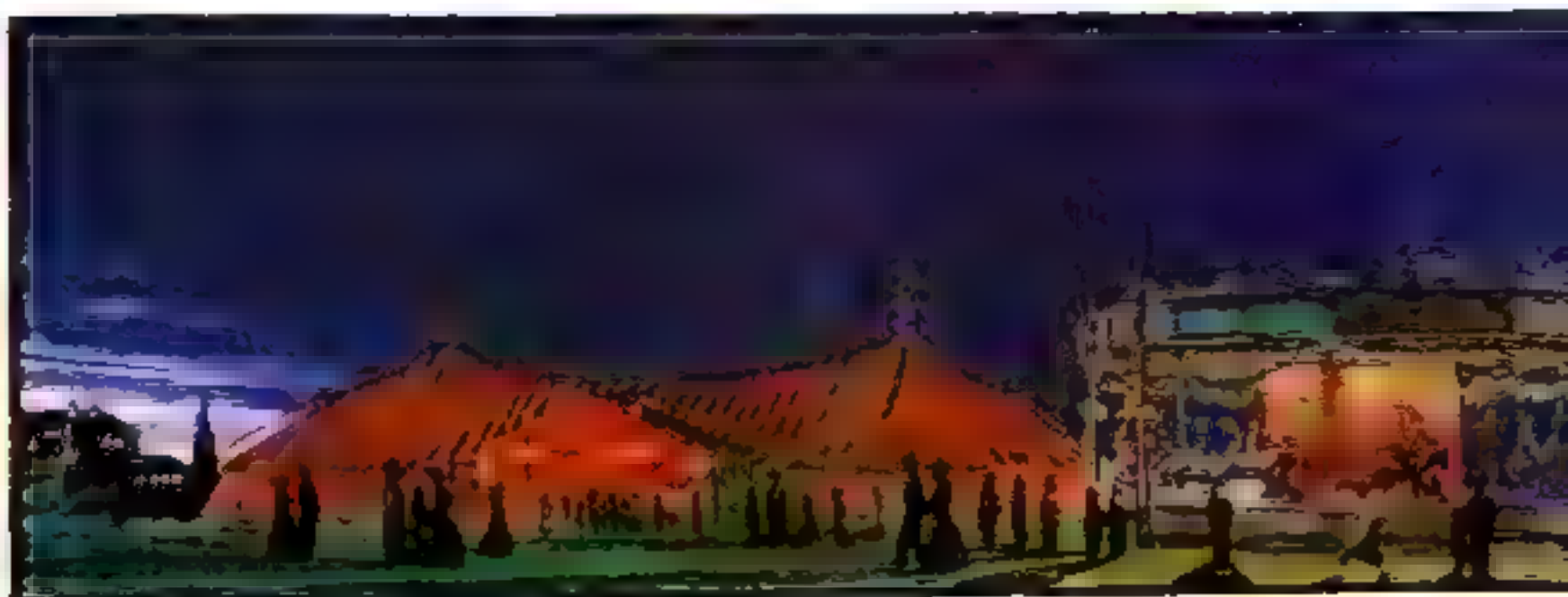
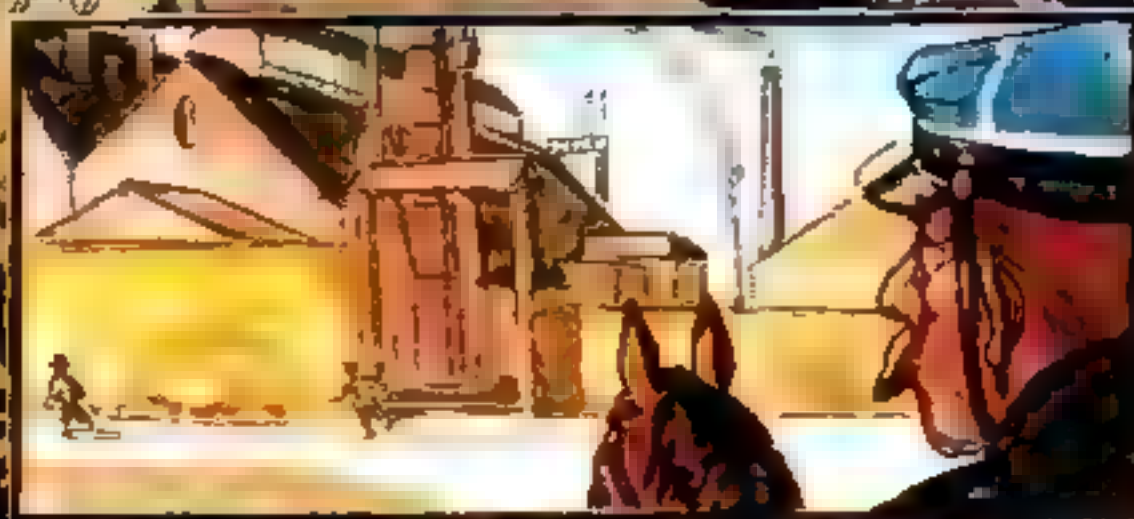
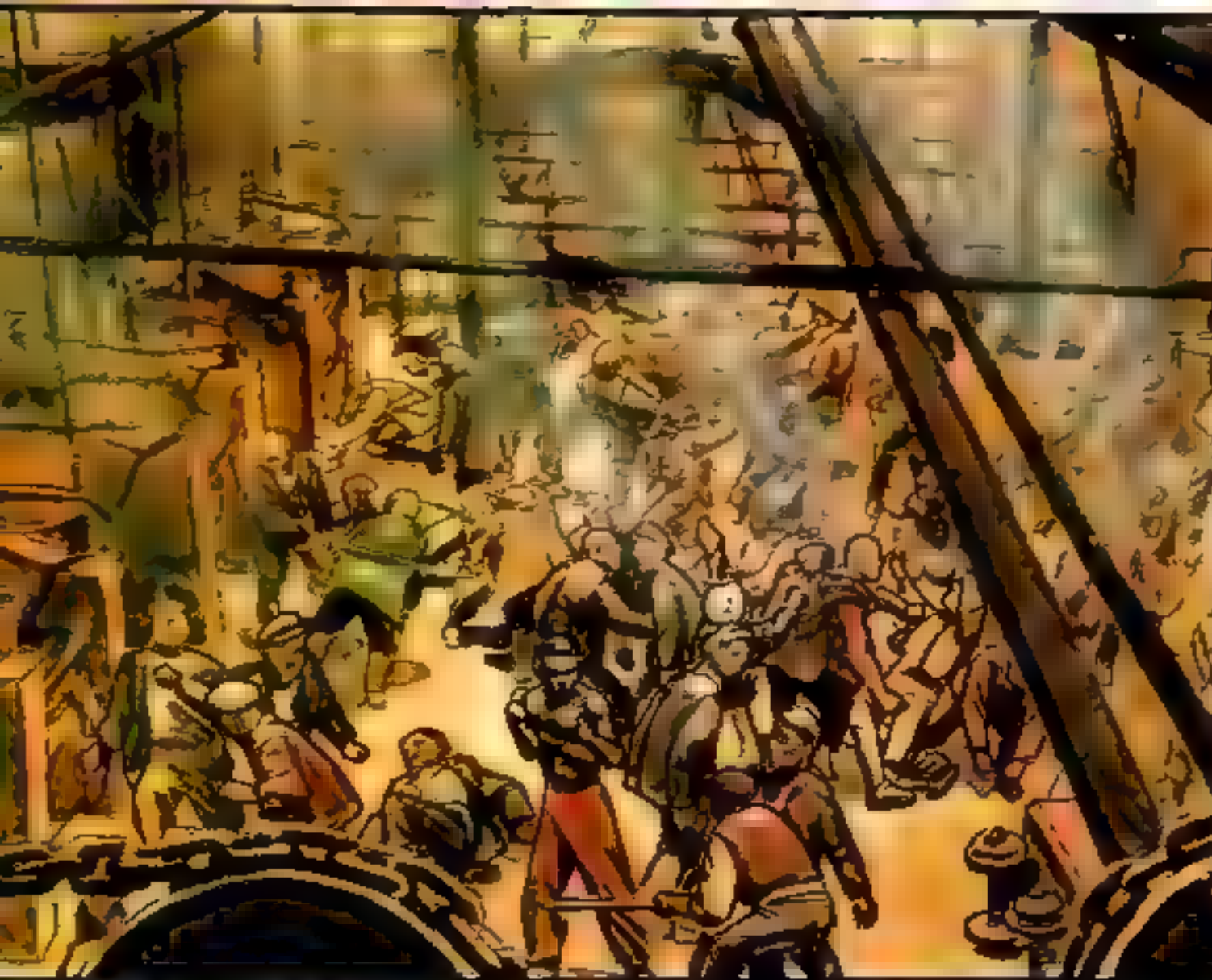
THUP!



ANHH!

OUCH!









LOOK AT THAT,
SURETTE! IT LOOKS
JUST LIKE
YOU!



AND THAT
LOOKS JUST LIKE
YOUR BROTHER,
VICTOR!



HENRY, MY FRIEND
WE DIDN'T MEAN
TO CHEAT YOU.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, TRY
NOT TO BREATHE, SLOW DOWN YOUR
HEARTBEATS BECAUSE EVEN YOUR
SLIGHTEST CUSTURE COULD CAUSE
AN ACCIDENT!

VICTOR AND GIGI HAVE
A CHILD. HE IS VERY ILL
REALLY SICK AND WE NEED
MONEY FOR MEDICINES
....! SWEAR!! HE IS VERY
SICK, MY POOR LITTLE
ONE!



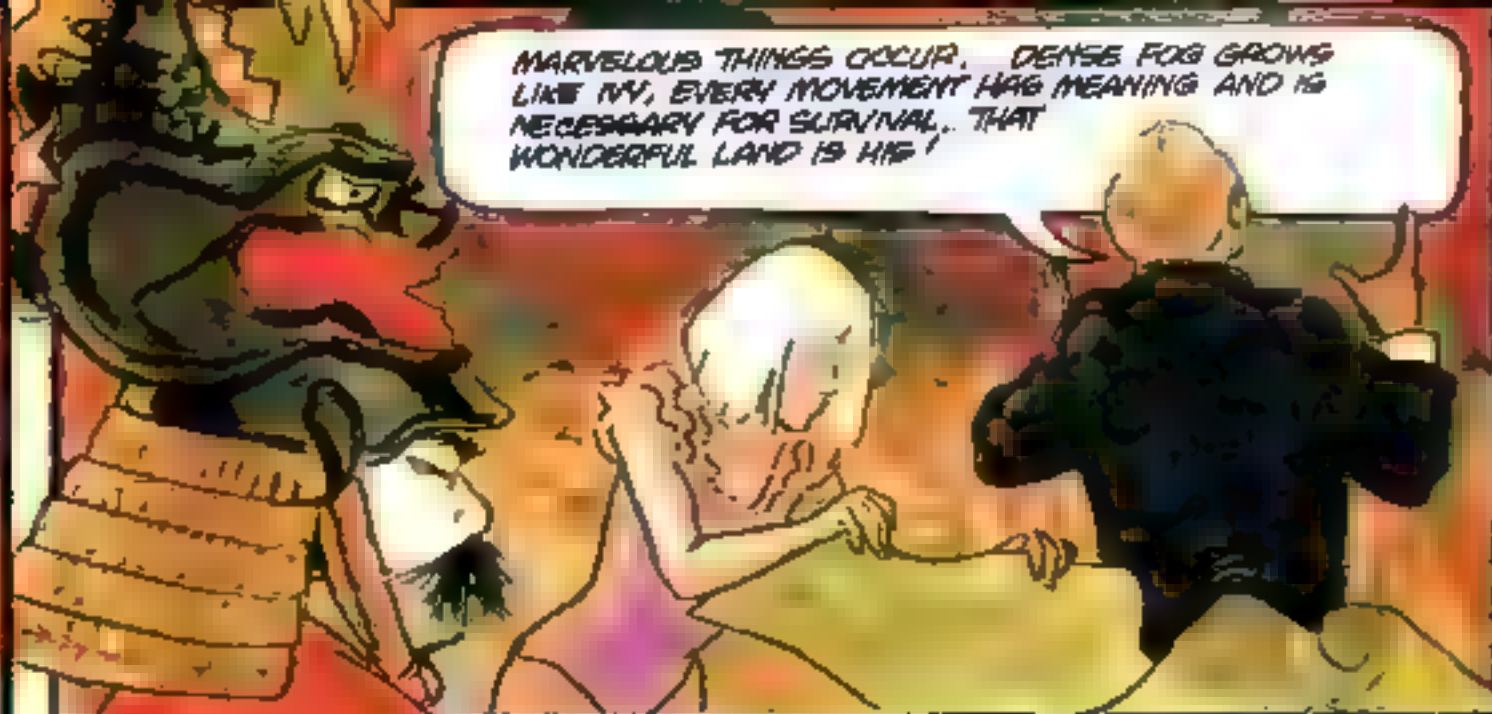
LADIES AND YOU, SIR
SILENCE, PLEASE!
WE'RE DOING SERIOUS
WORK HERE!

SUZETTE, LEAVE HIM ALONE! DON'T PULL HIS BEARD. DID YOU HEAR THAT, STOP FOR YOUR HENRY'S SAKE. IT'S ALL RIGHT. WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS THAT THE KID GOT HIS MEDICINE.

HE HAILED ALL THE WAY FROM DISTANT ISLANDS AND PURPLE ARCHIPELAGOS. FROM THAT MAGNIFICENT LAND WHERE ANCIENT FORESTS GUARD THE ETERNAL SECRET OF TIME. A LAND WHERE THE SILENCE OF SLEEPING BIRDS IS STRONGER THAN LIGHT, AND HEAVY MARSHES SEEP WITHIN MAN'S SOUL.



MARVELOUS THINGS OCCUR. DENSE FOG GROWS LIKE IVY, EVERY MOVEMENT HAS MEANING AND IS NECESSARY FOR SURVIVAL. THAT WONDERFUL LAND IS HIS!



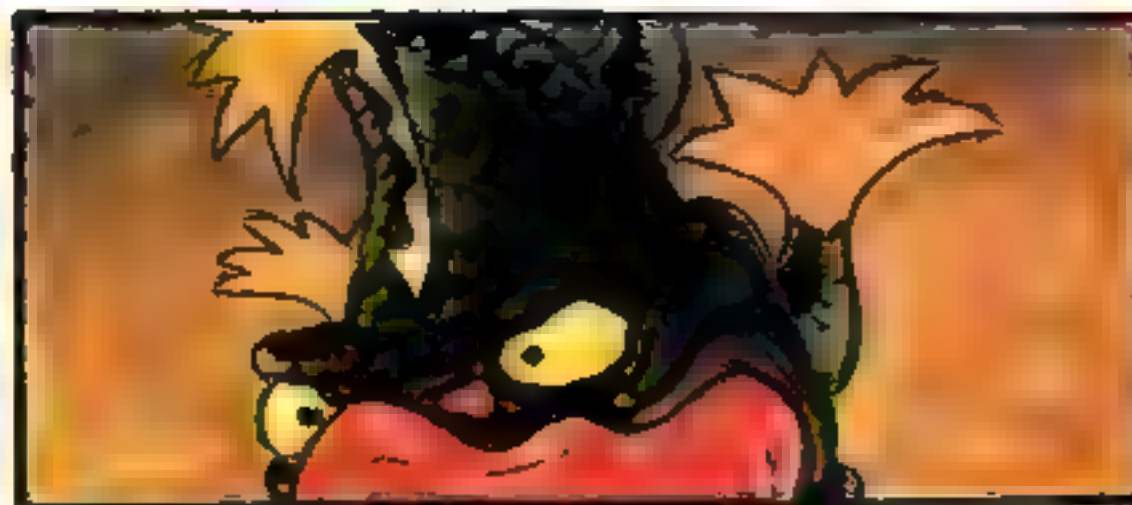
PRINCESS CARMA, WHO HAILED FROM THE INDIES, HAS INVITED HIM TO HER PALACE.



HENRY! THAT LITTLE MAN IS SMALLER THAN YOU!



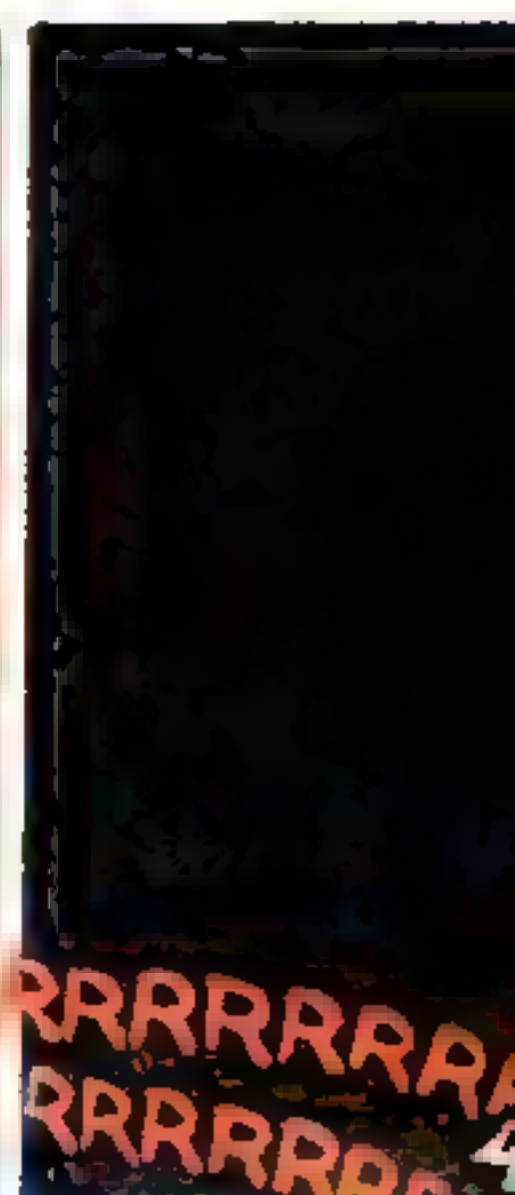
THE TRUMPETS OF JERICHO BEGIN TO PLAY THE HOLY WIND BLOWS AWAY HIS VOICE ...

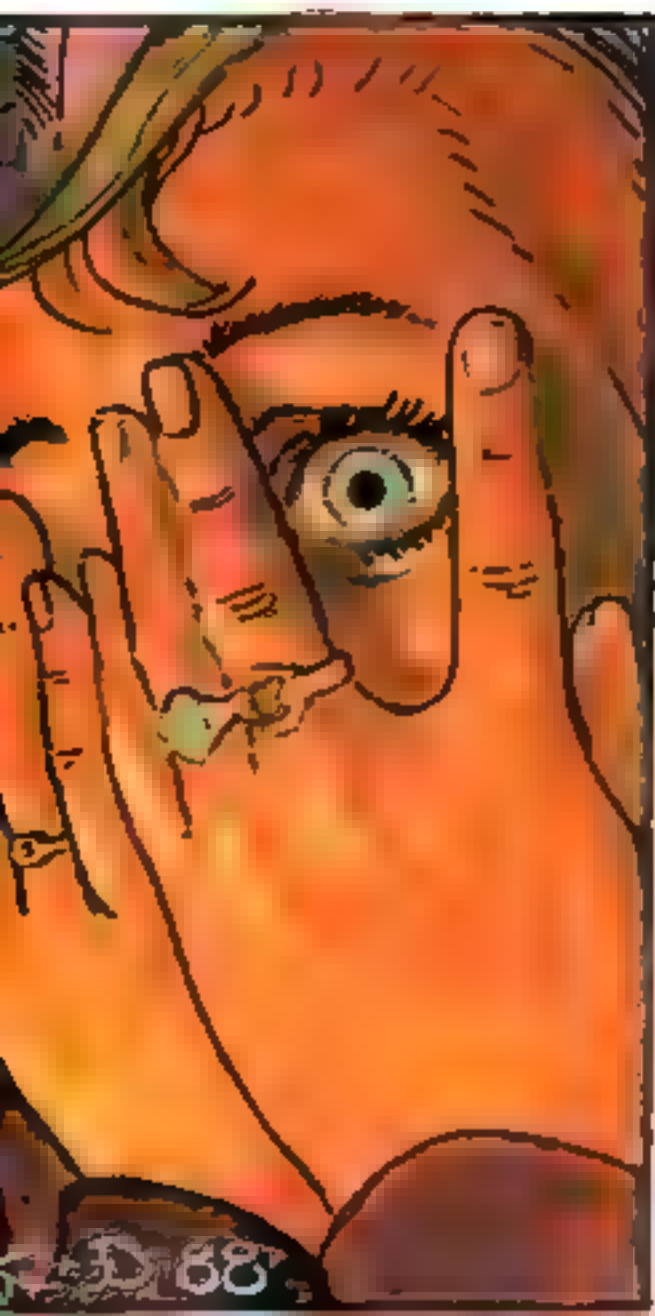


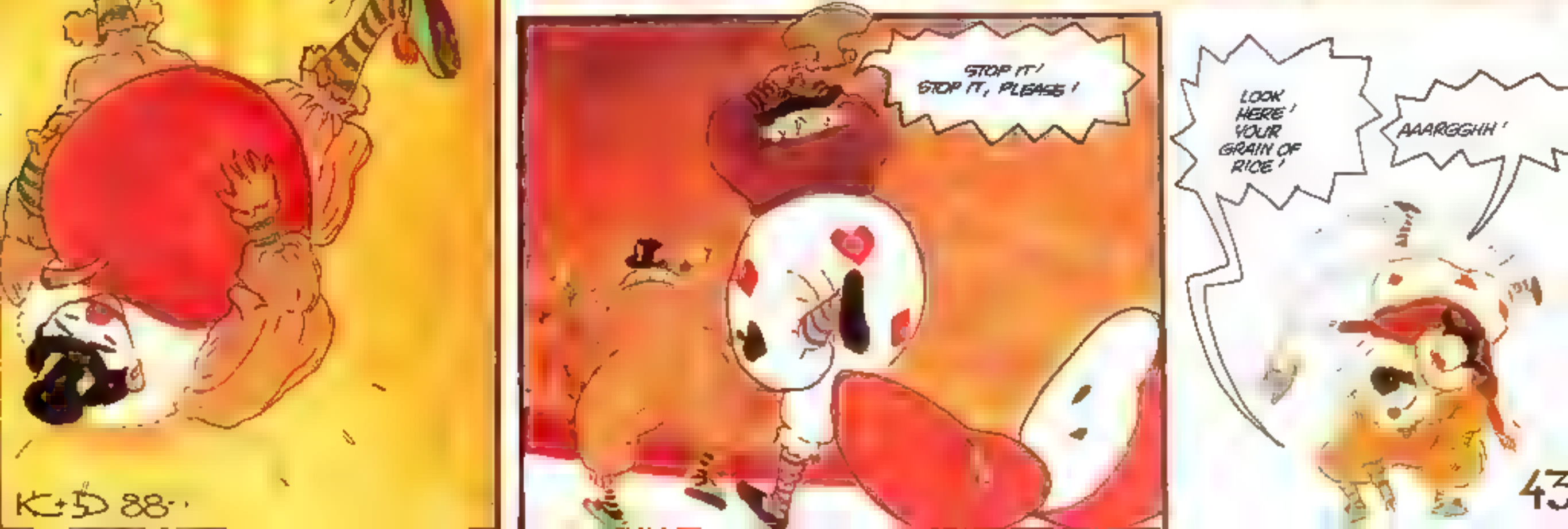
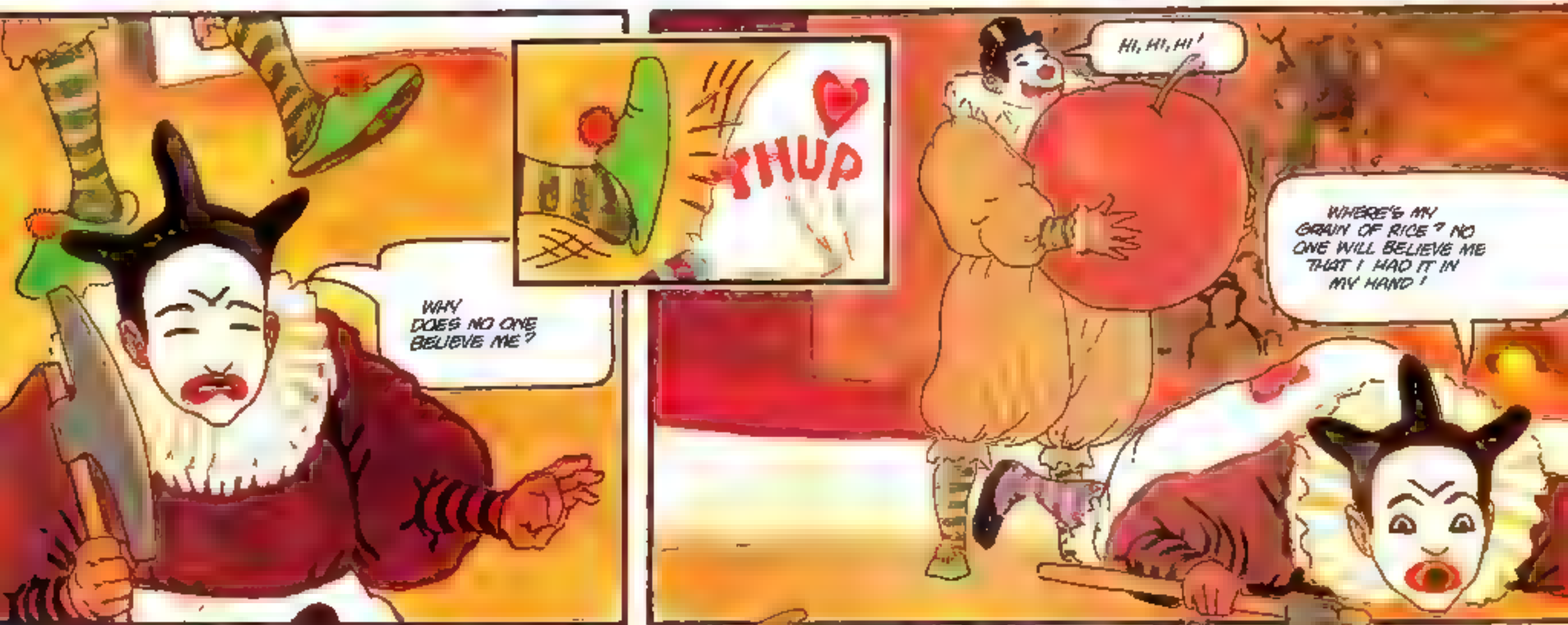
I AM TELLING YOU THE SECRET OF HIS SPEED AND THE MEANING OF HIS MOVEMENTS, THAT'S WHY I'M HERE TONIGHT LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

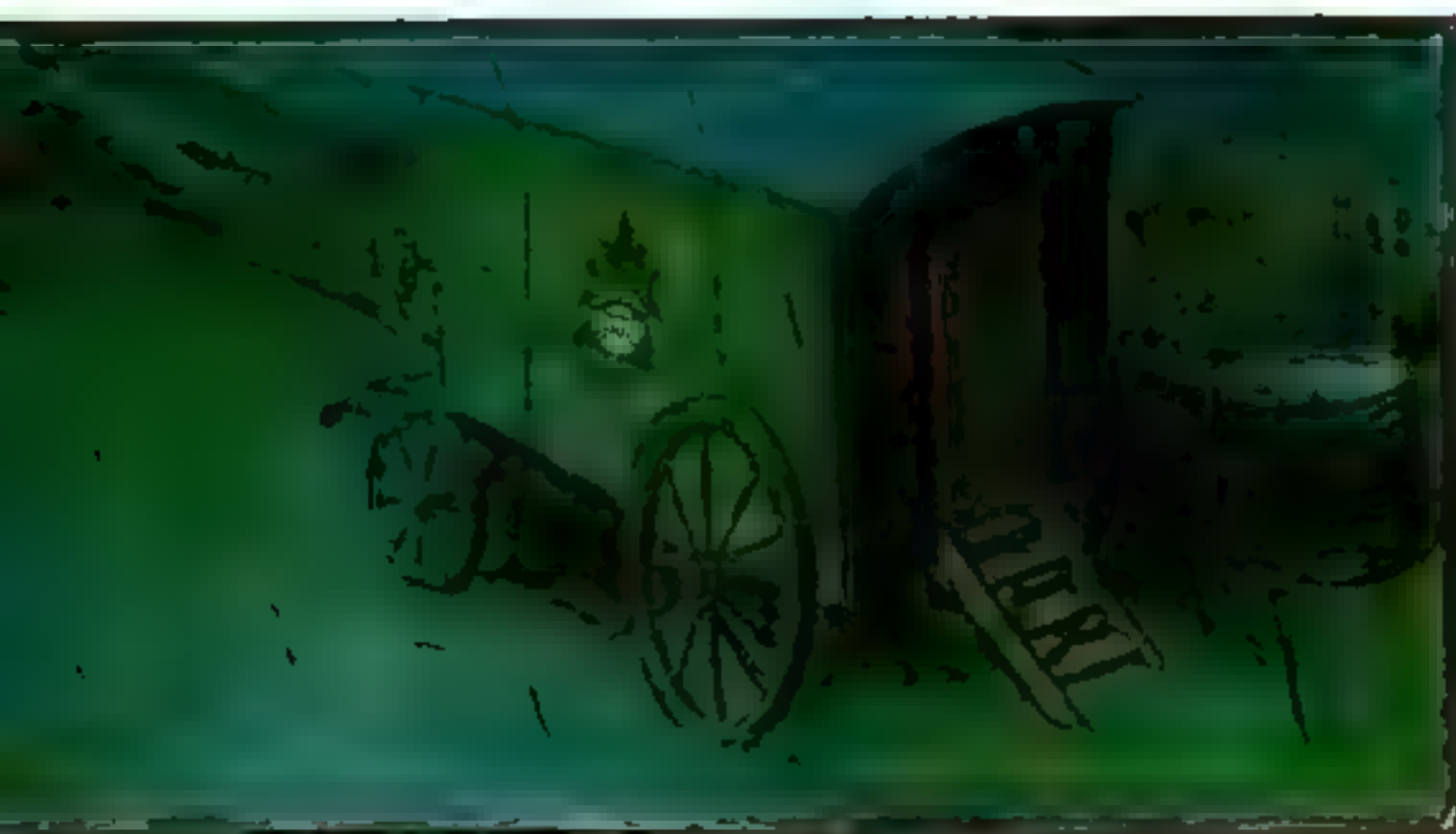
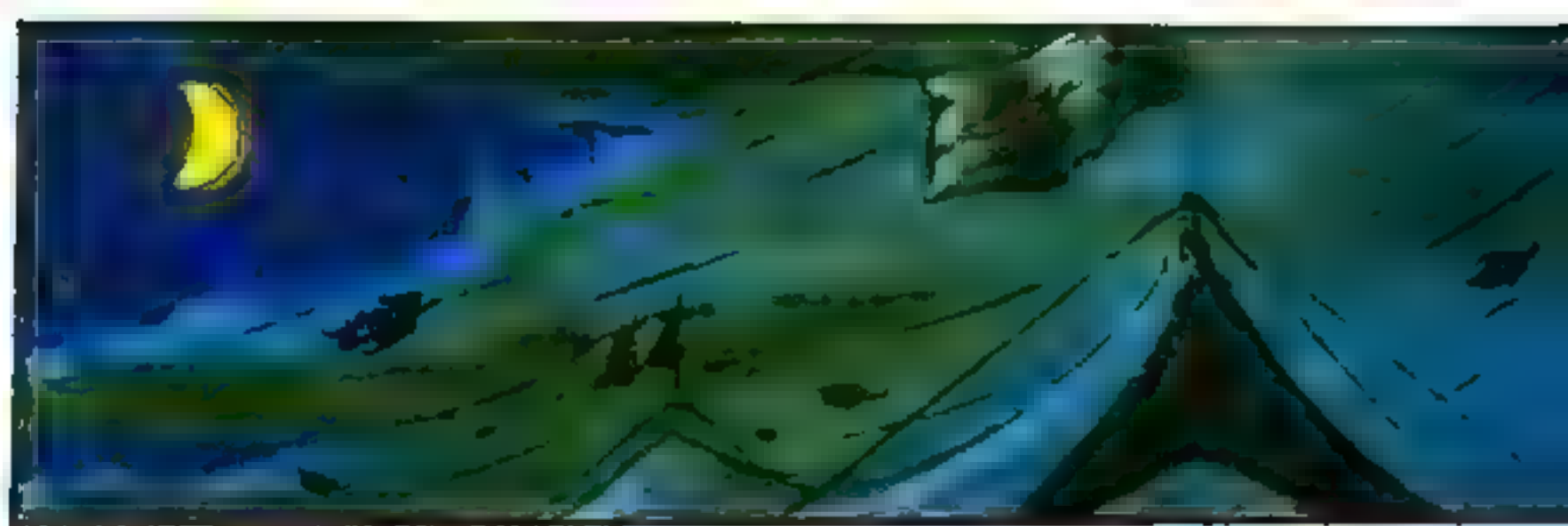
THE KING OF THE WILD SAMURAI!

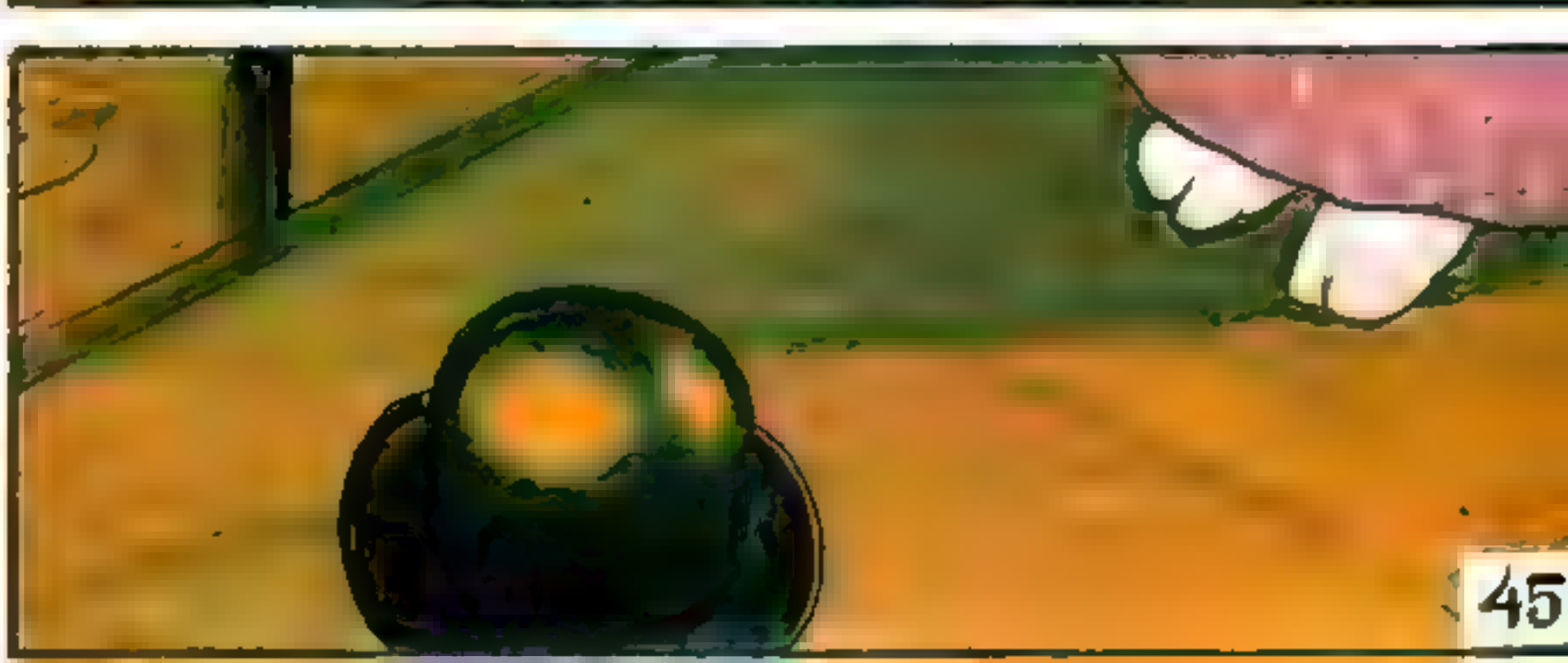
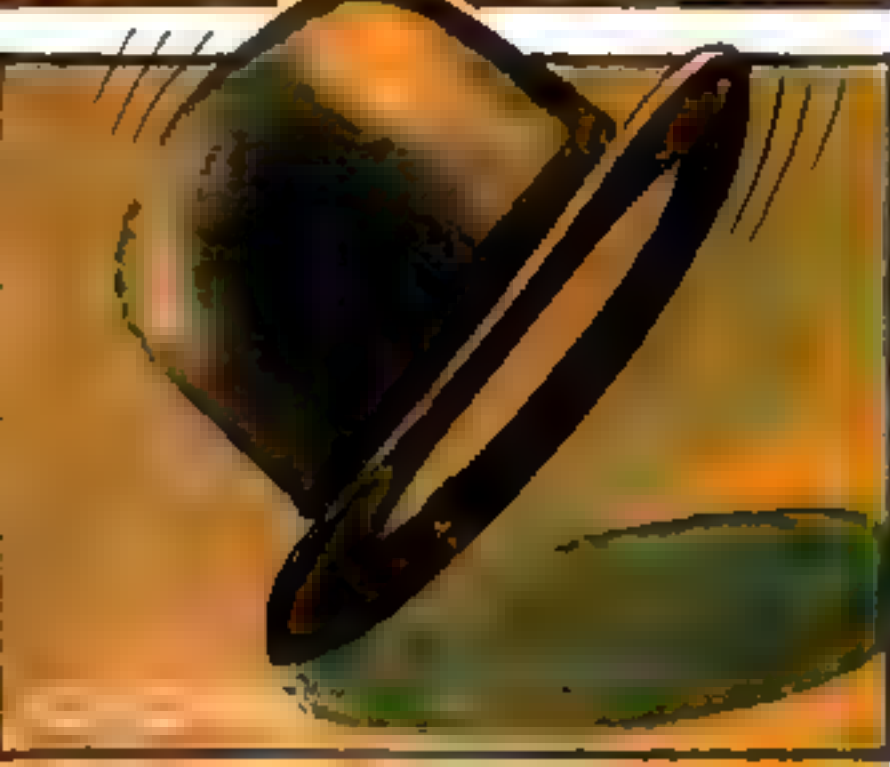
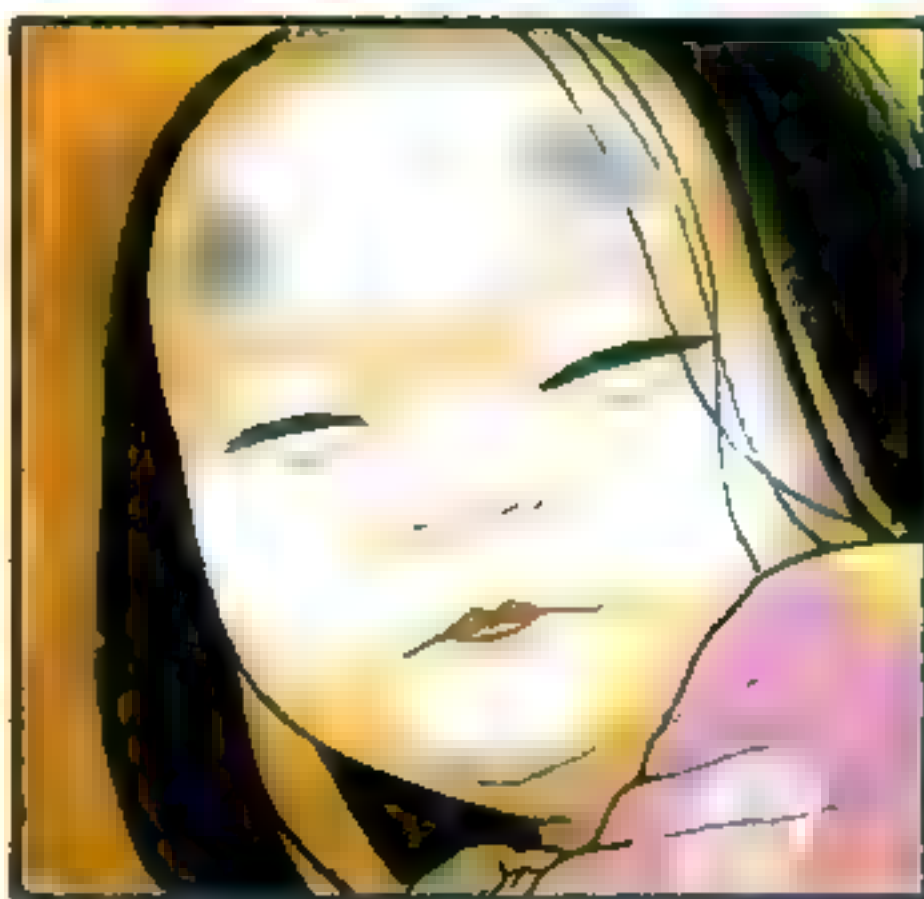


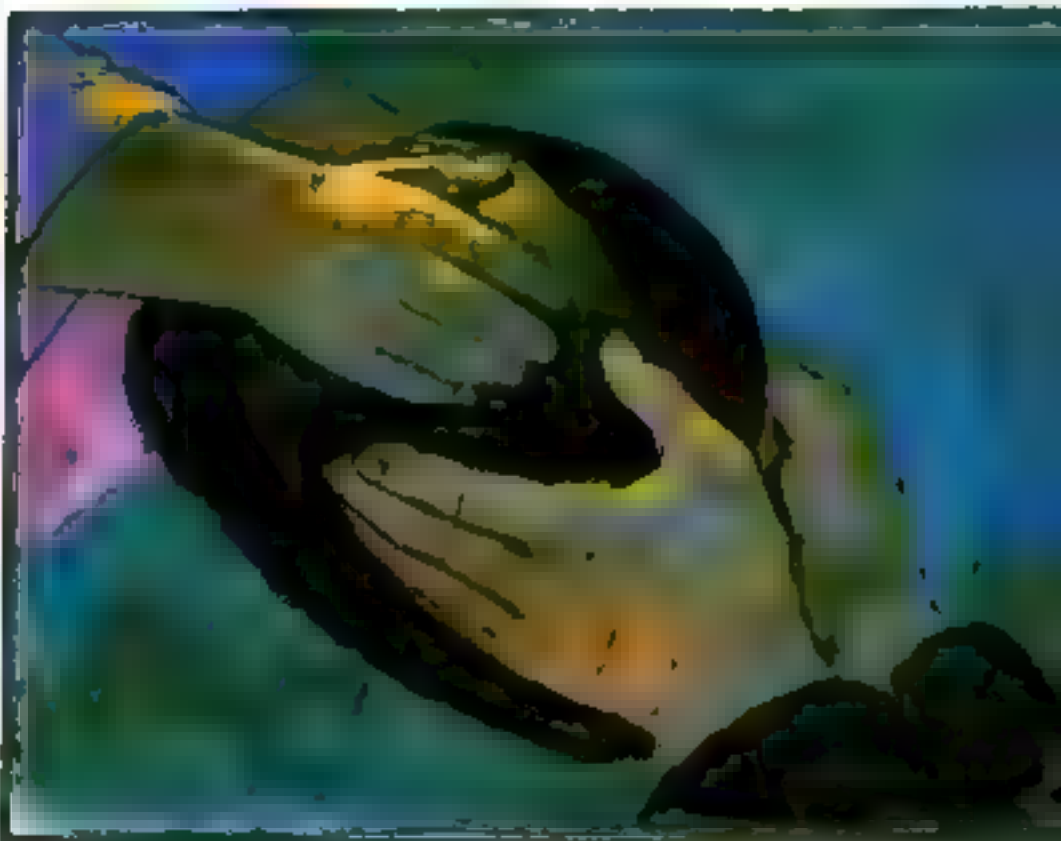
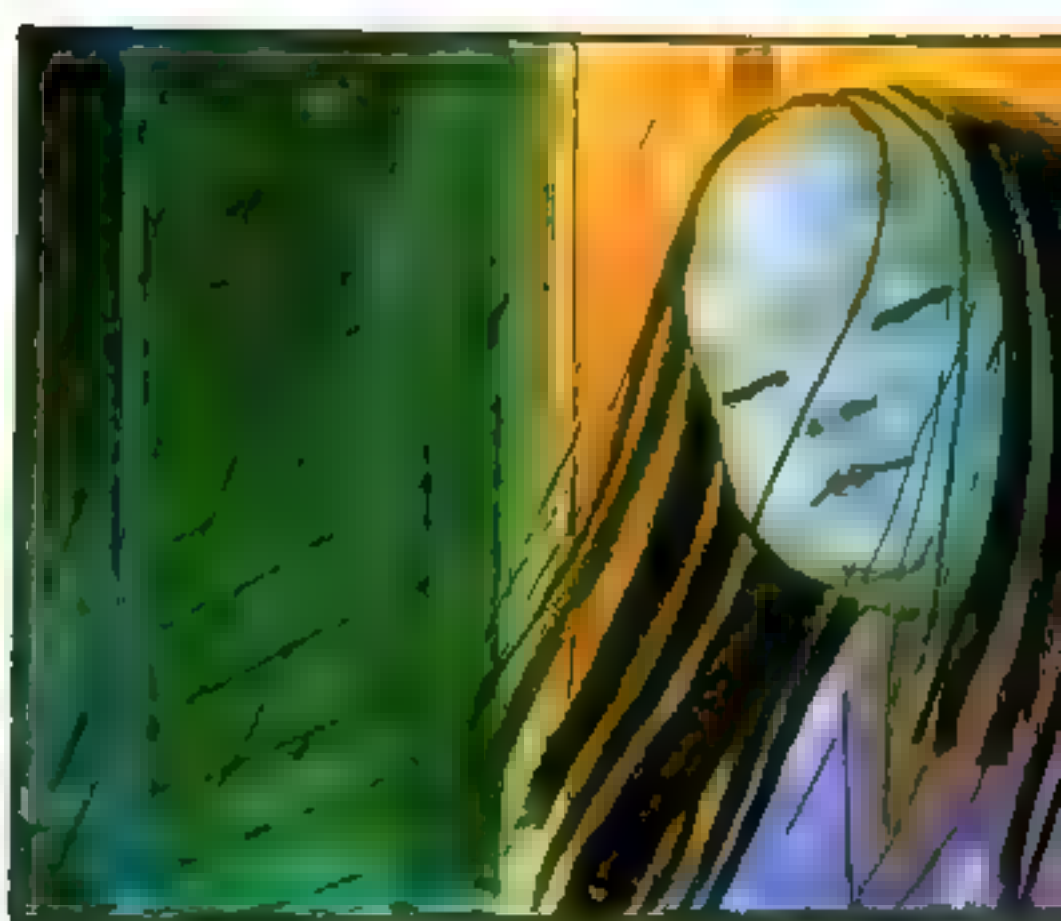






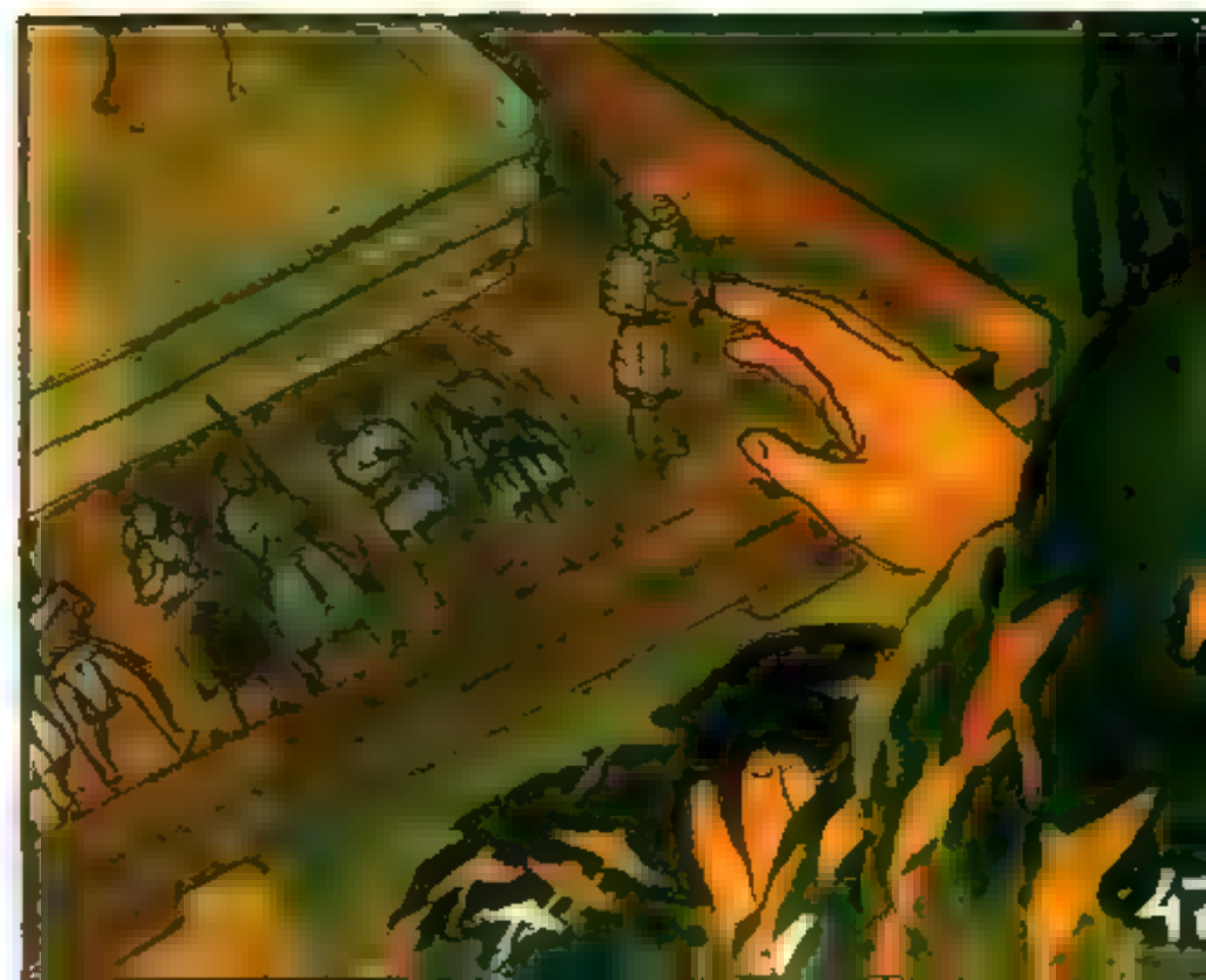
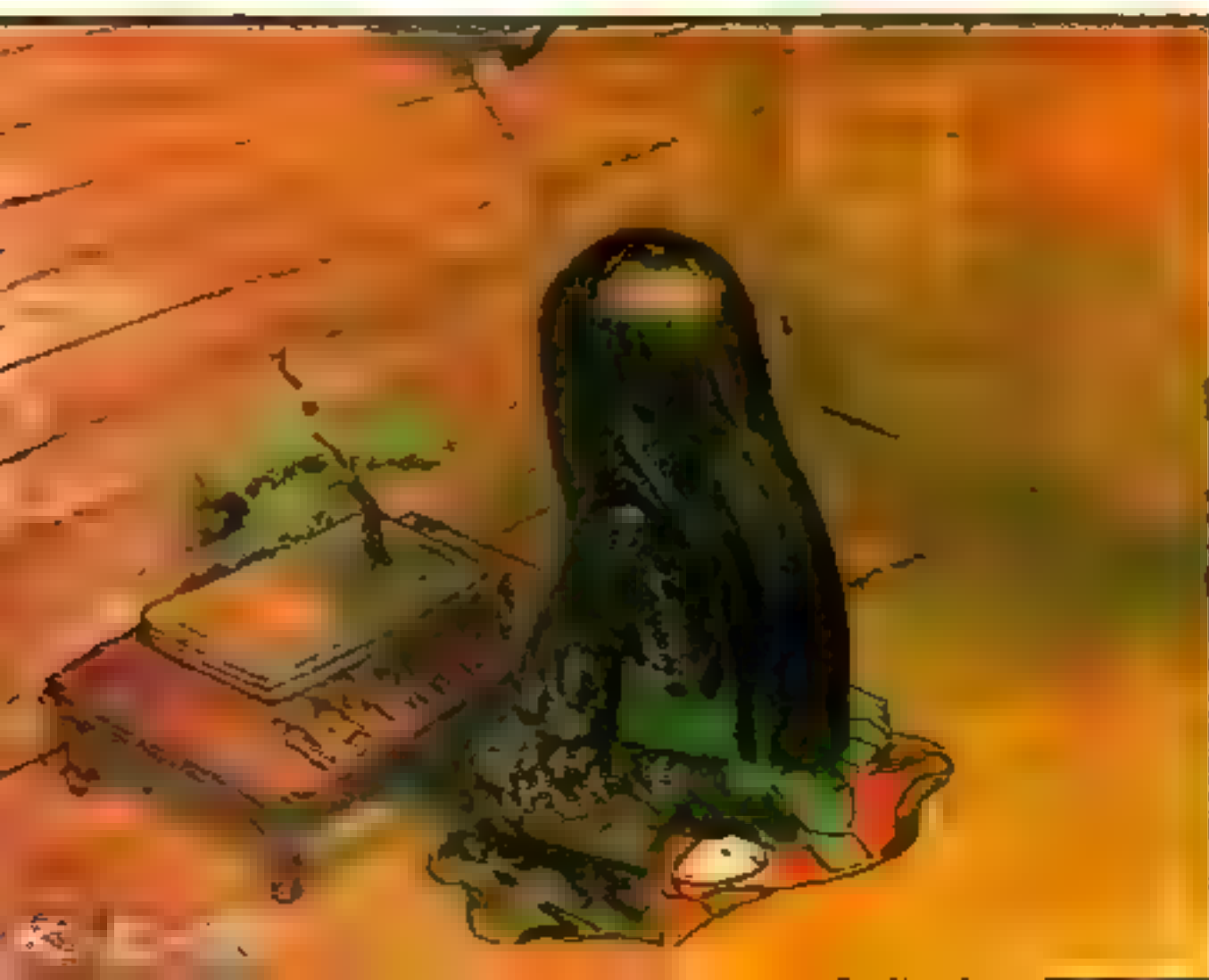
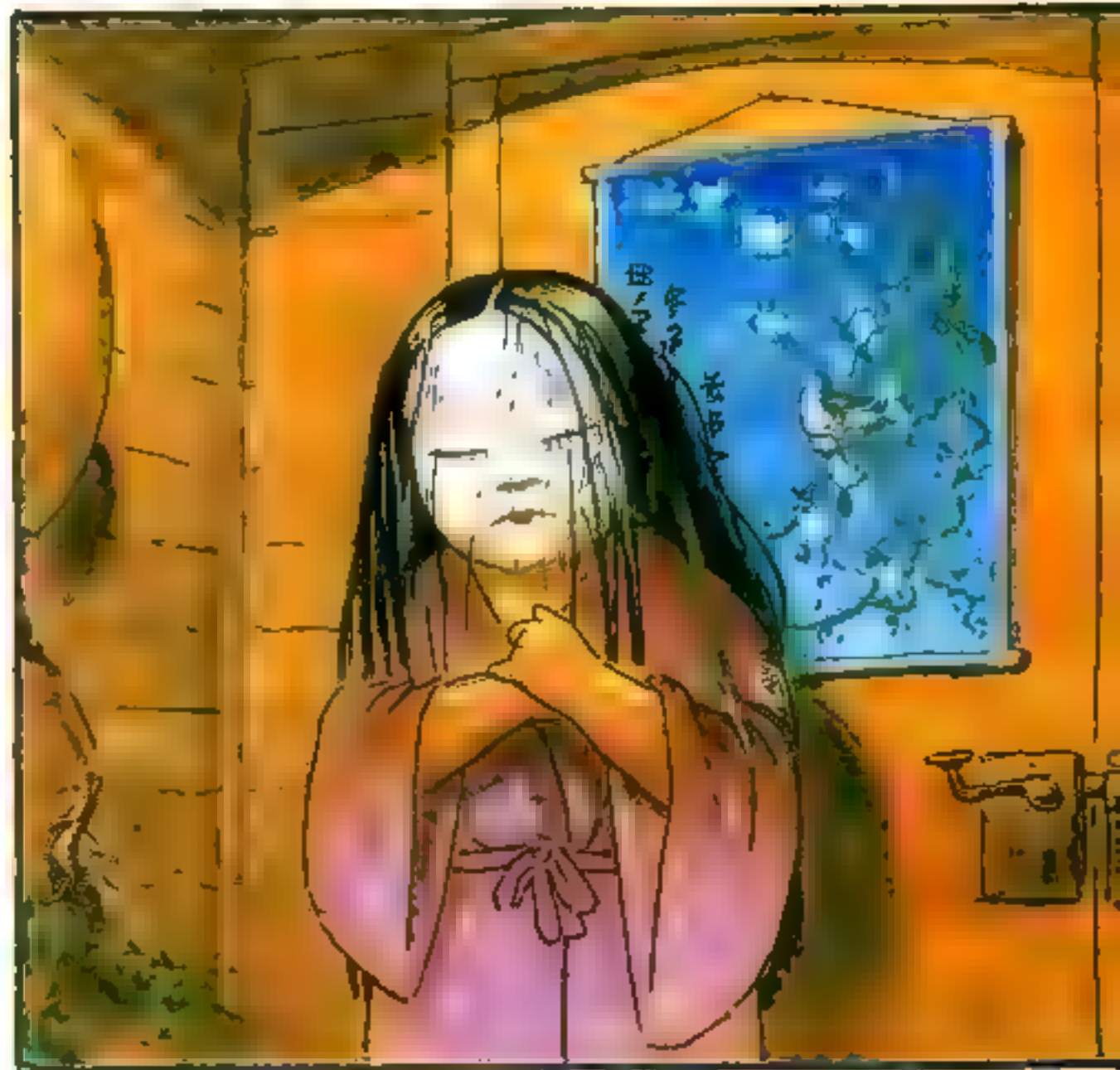
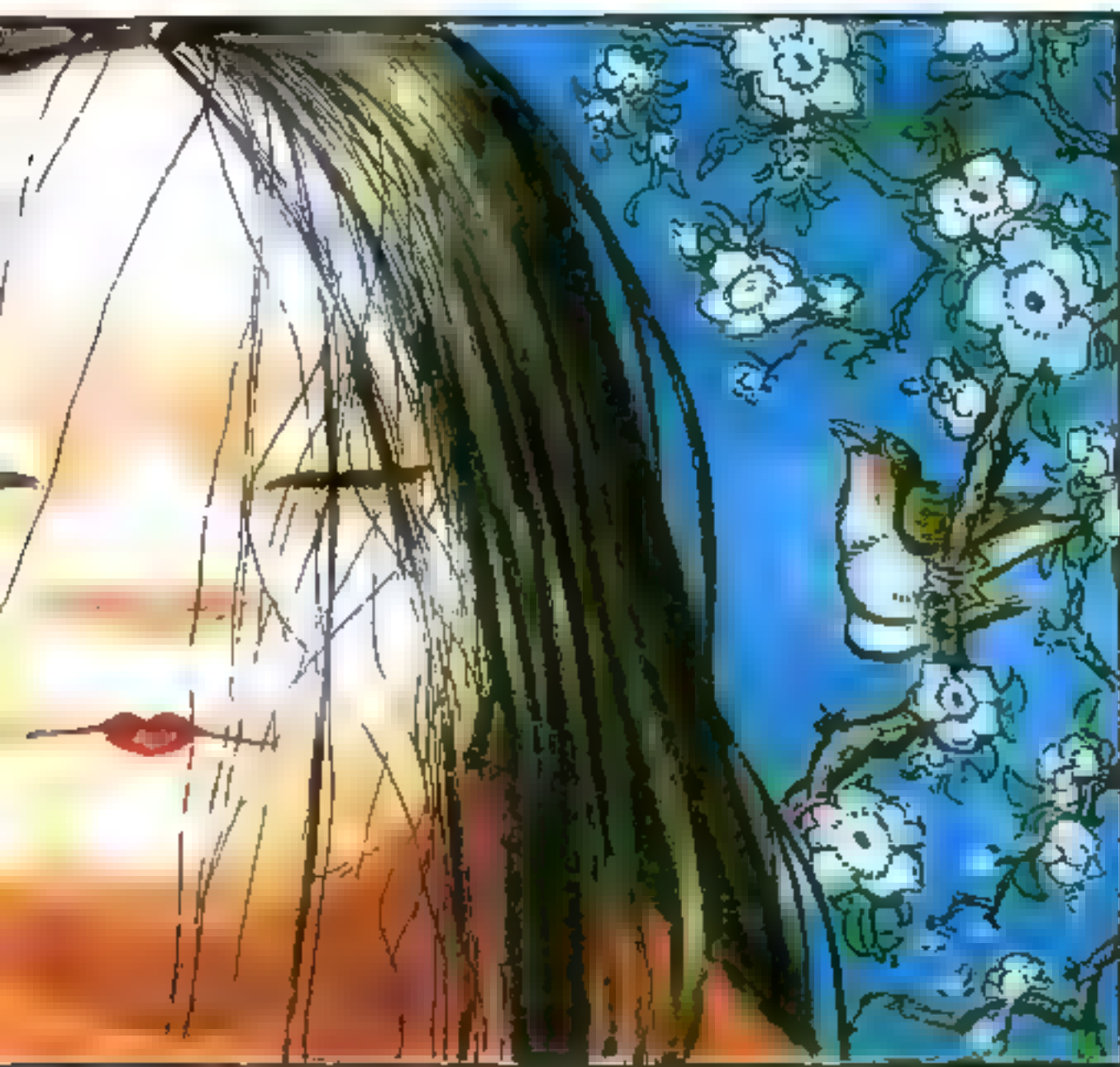




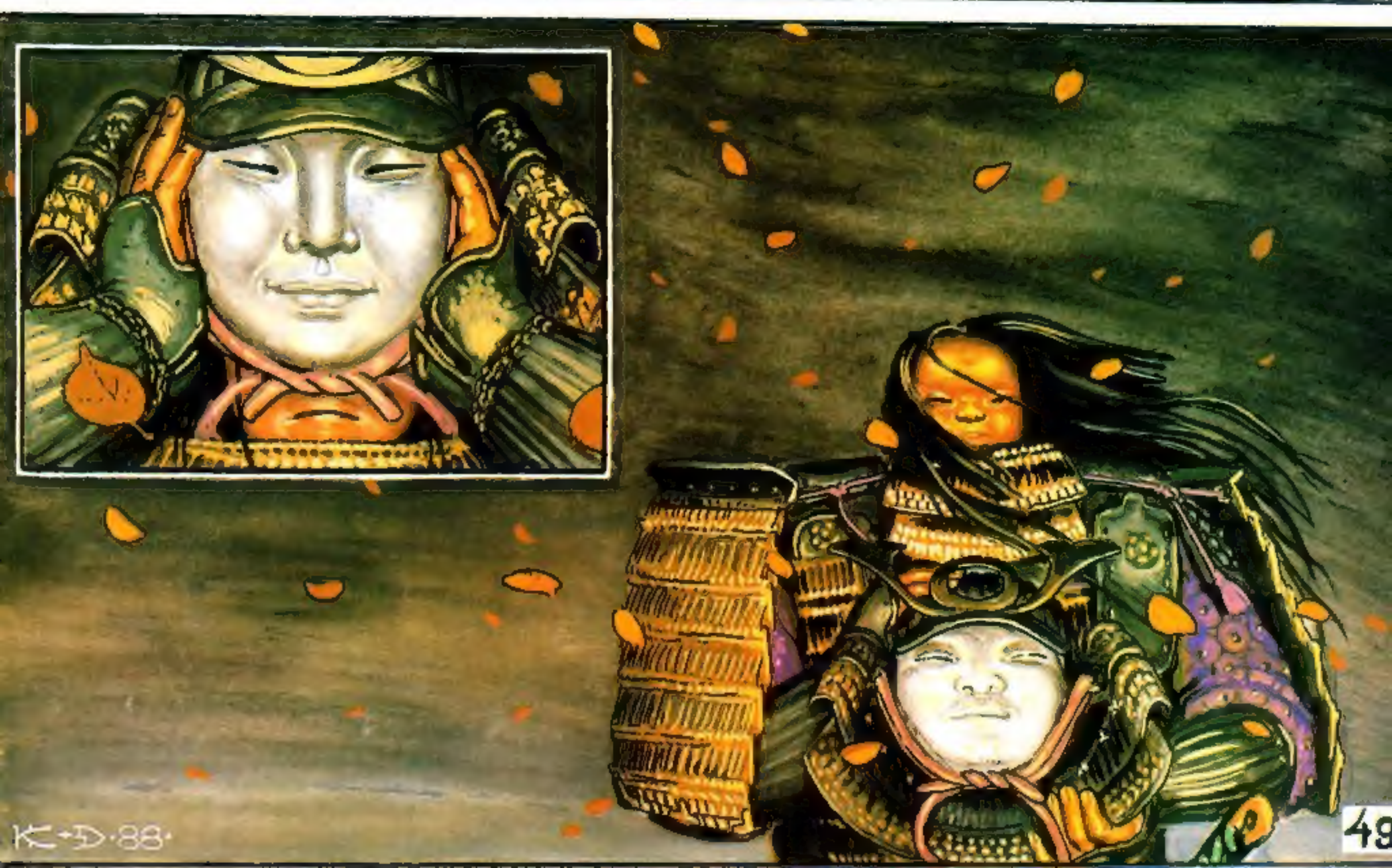


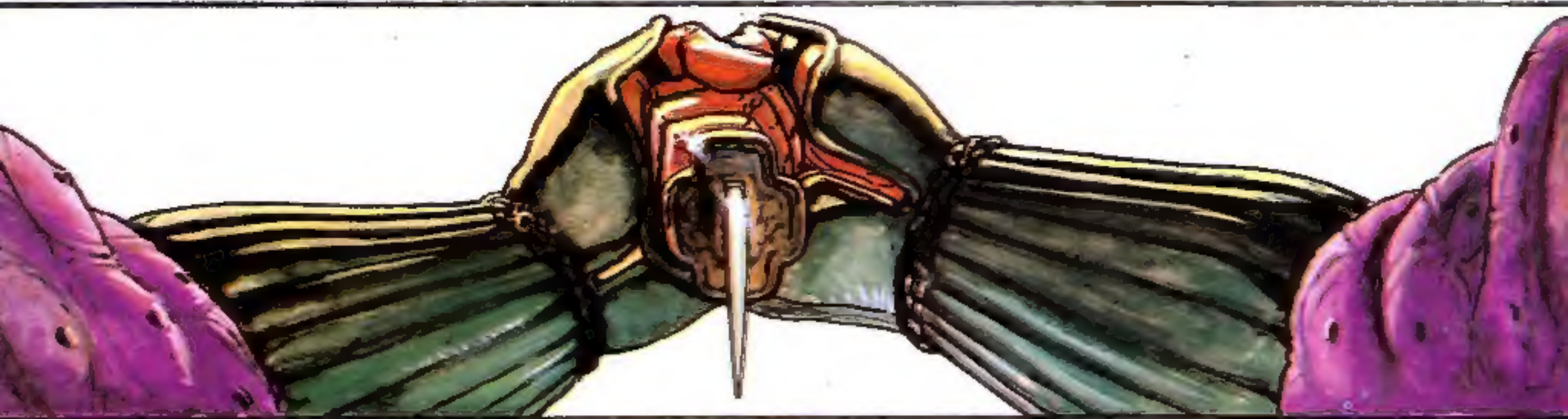


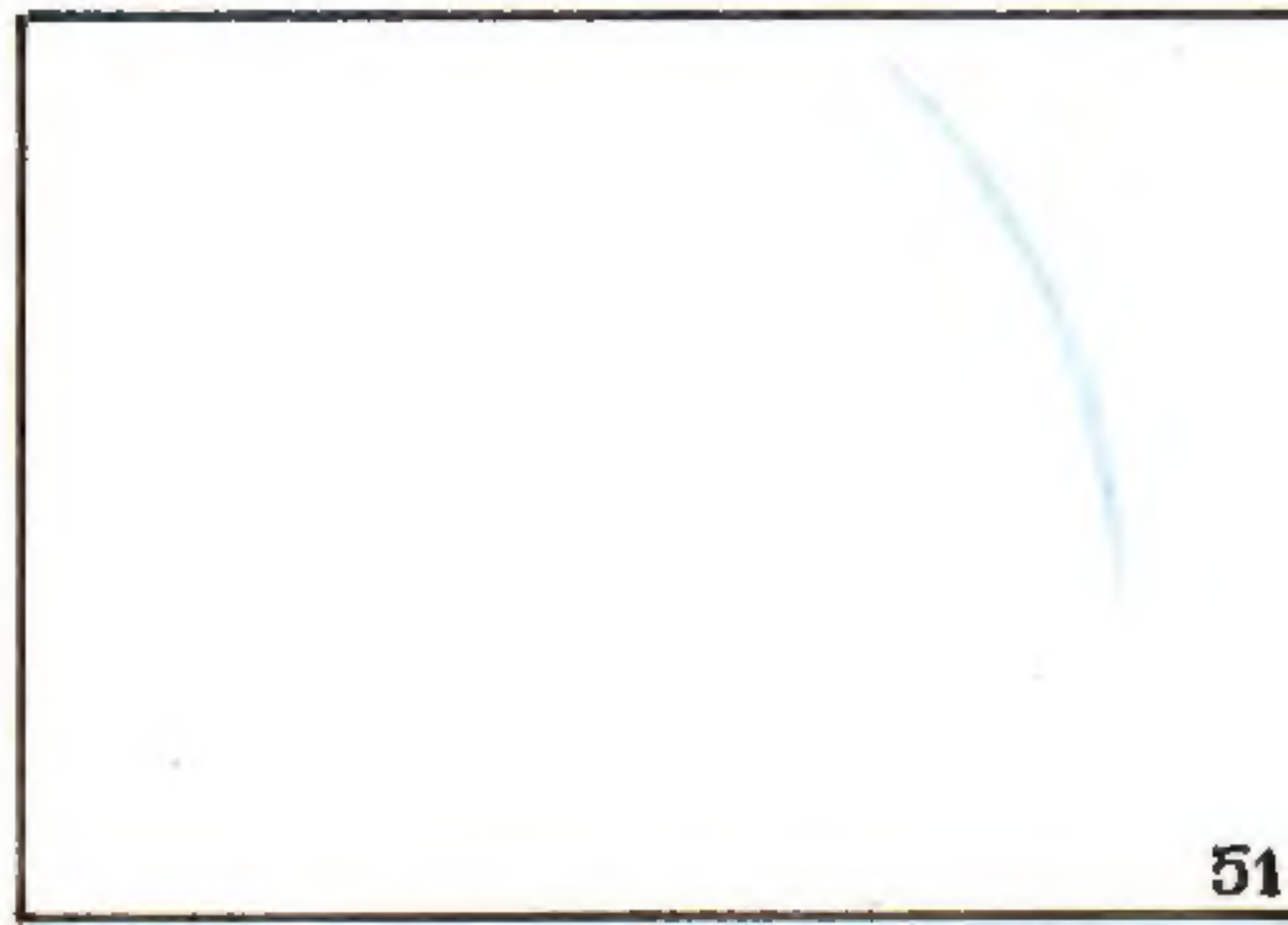
DON'T WORRY,
HENRY, I'VE GOT
YOUR SKETCH
BOOK











THE END.